



MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record
David B. Caldwell
FROM: David Caldwell
Director, Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services
SUBJECT: NWS Disposition on the Proposal to Terminate the NGM Model and
NGM-based Products

On July 1, 2008, The National Weather Service (NWS) released for public comment a proposal http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/old/pns08_ngm_removal.txt to terminate the production of the Nested Grid Model (NGM) and NGM-based products. The comment period closed on September 9, 2008.

1. Comments on the proposed change in service

The process to solicit comments, evaluate and make a decision on the proposal followed NWS Policy Directive 1-10 for Managing the Provision of Environmental Information and Instruction 10-101 on the Change Management Process¹. In particular, the NWS notified the public and solicited user comments on the proposal with listings on NWS web sites and e-mail to the Model Output Statistics (MOS) user group. Over the 71 day comment period, 11 public (non-NOAA) comments were received, ten of which objected to the termination and one in favor.

2. NWS Decision

The NWS strives to maximize efficiency and maintain the highest level of relevancy. To achieve this, it is sometimes appropriate to remove legacy products to open the way for new and improved products and services. Terminating the NGM model and NGM-based products will remove the need to maintain archaic skill sets, remove the need for resources required to maintain the NGM, free up communication bandwidth and reduce computer resources.

It is recognized, as identified by public feedback, that the NGM provides predictable tendencies and its MOS products are used in consensus forecasting. However, since there are better performing GFS and NAM-based products, including gridded products, the NWS has decided to terminate production of all NGM-based products. Therefore, effective March 3, 2009, the NWS will discontinue the production of the NGM model and all NGM-based products.

¹ See <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

