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Service Change Notice 20-98  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
250 PM EDT Wed Oct 28 2020

To:           Subscribers  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Bruce Entwistle, Chief, Aviation and Space Weather Services  
              Branch

Subject:      Improved Aurora Forecasts at the Space Weather Prediction  
              Center Effective October 28, 2020

Effective October 28, 2020, NWS Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) will upgrade its Aurora Forecast product on the NOAA Space Weather website to version 2.0 at the following URL:  
<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/aurora-30-minute-forecast>.

The new version of this product will provide a number of improvements and changes as outlined below:

- Expands range of geomagnetic activity coverage; version 1.0 only provided estimates for geomagnetic storm levels of Kp of 7 or less, whereas version 2.0 provides estimates for geomagnetic storms up to the maximum level of Kp = 9
- Written in Python (rather than IDL) for enhanced model reliability and user-friendly maintenance
- Provides a more accurate auroral location by using an improved geomagnetic field model
- Provides numerical gridded output from the model in JSON format rather than simple ASCII
- Includes reference to NOAA and the Space Weather Prediction Center in graphical product

Users can find more information about the upgrade to the Ovation model in the news release at:  
<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/news/improved-aurora-forecasts-at-the-space-weather-prediction-center>.

For any comments/feedback on the model upgrade, please contact:

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