

NOUS41 KWBC 051930
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 21-73
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
330 PM EDT Thu Aug 5 2021

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From: Jeffrey Craven
NWS Office of Science and Technology Integration
Meteorological Development Laboratory

Subject: Update to the National Blend of Models (NBM) Quantile Mapping and Dressing (QMD) to Fix an Issue with Probability of Precipitation Values in the Alaska Domain: Effective on or about August 17, 2021

Effective on or about Tuesday August 17, 2021, beginning with the 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) model run, the NWS NCEP Central Operations will implement an update to the National Blend of Models (NBM) Quantile Mapping and Dressing (QMD).

In the event that the implementation date is declared a Critical Weather Day (CWD), or significant weather is occurring or is anticipated to occur, implementation of this change will occur at 1200 UTC on the next weekday not declared a CWD and when no significant weather is occurring.

In late-July, NWS Forecast Offices in Alaska identified calibrated Probability of Precipitation (PoP) values for 6-, 12-, and 24-hour periods that did not agree with the accompanying calibrated Percentiles of Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (PQPF).

Upon investigation, it was determined that an incorrect land/water binary mask is being used for the Alaska domain, leading to un-calibrated PoP values in the product output. This update will apply the correct mask, allowing for the calibrated PoP values to be outputted to the QMD PoP Alaska product where available.

The locations on NOMADS of the affected files include:

<https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/blend/prod/blend.YYYYMMDD/C/core>

File names are blend.tCCz.core.fHHH.ak.grib2

<https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/blend/prod/blend.YYYYMMDD/C/qmd>

File names are blend.tCCz.qmd.fHHH.ak.grib2

<https://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/blend/prod/blend.YYYYMMDD/C/text>

File names are blend_nbetx.tCCz, blend_nbptx.tCCz, blend_nbstx.tCCz, and blend_nbxtx.tCCz, respectively.

In the above paths, YYYYMMDD is the 8-digit year, month, and day, respectively; CC is the Blend cycle time; and HHH is the forecast projection.

A list of the headers that affect PoP06 and PoP12 over Alaska include:

For POP06:

YUAB12 KVEC
YUAB18 KVEC
YUAB24 KVEC
YUAC06 KVEC
YUAC12 KVEC
YUAC18 KVEC
YUAC24 KVEC
YUAD06 KVEC
YUAD12 KVEC
YUAD18 KVEC
YUAD24 KVEC
YUAE06 KVEC
YUAE12 KVEC
YUAE18 KVEC
YUAE24 KVEC
YUAF06 KVEC
YUAF12 KVEC
YUAF18 KVEC
YUAF24 KVEC
YUAG06 KVEC
YUAG12 KVEC
YUAG18 KVEC
YUAG24 KVEC
YUAH06 KVEC
YUAH12 KVEC
YUAH18 KVEC
YUAH24 KVEC
YUAI06 KVEC

YUAI12 KWEC
YUAI18 KWEC
YUAI24 KWEC
YUAJ06 KWEC
YUAJ12 KWEC
YUAJ18 KWEC
YUAJ24 KWEC
YUAK06 KWEC
YUAK12 KWEC
YUAK18 KWEC
YUAK24 KWEC
YUAL06 KWEC
YUAL12 KWEC
YUAL18 KWEC
YUAL24 KWEC
YUAM06 KWEC
YUAM12 KWEC

For POP12:

YDAB12 KWEC
YDAB24 KWEC
YDAC12 KWEC
YDAC24 KWEC
YDAD12 KWEC
YDAD24 KWEC
YDAE12 KWEC
YDAE24 KWEC
YDAF12 KWEC
YDAF24 KWEC
YDAG12 KWEC
YDAG24 KWEC
YDAH12 KWEC
YDAH24 KWEC
YDAI12 KWEC
YDAI24 KWEC
YDAJ12 KWEC
YDAJ24 KWEC
YDAK12 KWEC
YDAK24 KWEC
YDAL12 KWEC
YDAL24 KWEC

Any questions, comments or requests regarding this implementation should be directed to the contacts below.

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For questions regarding the dataflow for NWS/NCEP services, please contact:

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A webpage describing the NBM can be found at:

http://www.weather.gov/mdl/nbm_home

National Service Change Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/notification>

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