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Service Change Notice 23-11
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
420 PM EST Thu Feb 16 2023

To: Subscribers:
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From: Kari Sheets
 Chief, Weather Information Distribution Services Branch

Subject: A New Version of NWS National Map Viewer ("The Viewer") will be Released on or about April 3, 2023

Reference: Service Change Notice 22-92:
https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/scn22-92_national_gis_viewer_t20.pdf

NWS National Map Viewer ("the Viewer") web application framework hosted on the Amazon Web Services public cloud became an operational service September 28, 2022. On or about April 3rd, 2023, the NWS National Viewer will be updated with a new look and feel that is mobile-friendly. This update focuses on end-user enhancements, usability based on feedback from our users, and enhanced security measures.

Backend:
- Updates to OpenLayers

User Interface (UI): The UI was updated to responsive design using Angular 12. UI design was made so that it could be customized by Viewer developers using templates. Tabs and menu items were consolidated in a main toolbar that can be collapsed and expanded. List of other enhancements included in the UI:

- Dashboards
 - Capability for NWS to create topical dashboards added. Dashboards are accessed from the Other Tools menu.
- Legends
 - Consolidated legend headers and removed the ability to have duplicate headings.
- Draw
 - Code updated for better experience
- Add Map Data
 - Moved from a tab into the tool menu and updated the code for better experience.
- Time slider
 - Redesigned layout with the option to see where specific data are on the timeline.
- Map tools

- The Swipe tool that turns off data on one side of the map was added.
- Clean tool was moved from the bottom right of the application to map tools
- Change Site was moved from a tab at the top of the map to the main toolbar
- Change Extent was moved from a tab at the top of the map to the other tools menu.
- Footer
 - Updated the footer to show only map information. Privacy act and other links are contained within the other tools menu.
- Search
 - All search types were consolidated in a drop-down. Users can choose whether to search geographic, lat/long, or layers/views/folders by selecting from the search bar drop down. Users may also select the period of time for recently added data by selecting "recent data" from the search drop down menu.
- Query
 - Viewer query tools were also moved from a panel tab to the main toolbar. As new ways to query data are added the query tools will be selectable from a dropdown menu rather than having to scroll through the panel to find a specific query tool.
- Download
 - Download was also moved from a panel tab to the other tools menu
- Bookmarks
 - Remain at the bottom of the layers panel. Layers are the first option on the main toolbar.
- Help
 - Help menu with links to the user guide was from a tab at the top of the map to the other tools menu
- Print
 - Temporarily disabled to update completely. Estimated to be restored with the next major software update for the Viewer.

The NWS National Viewer is a web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) tool that assists NWS users/stakeholders including a diverse group of organizations and individuals who use NWS data in a wide variety of ways. As NWS data increases in scope and frequency, providing methods to ensure these data are easily accessible and ingestible by NWS users is paramount.

Interactive, web-based geospatial products, including geospatial services and map viewers, are universal methods to serve many of these assimilation needs. Interactive maps driven by geospatial services can serve all data from rapidly updating products (e.g., Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor [MRMS] data) to more traditional products (e.g., precipitation forecasts and event-driven watches and warnings). The NWS has developed the Viewer based on the aforementioned functional and data requirements provided by NWS Staff based on feedback from their stakeholders.

The Viewer is the result of a NWS partnered effort with NOAA's National Ocean Service to leverage the Environment Response Management Application (ERMA) software and customize it to meet NWS' initial functional requirements. The first two operational Geographic Information Service (GIS) program sites for the Viewer are for General Weather topics and Water-related information:

General Site URL: <https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/general>

Water Site URL: <https://viewer.geospatial.weather.gov/water>

The following GIS program sites will remain experimental at this time:

Tropical URL: <https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/tropical>

Fire URL: <https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/fire>

Severe URL: <https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/severe>

Winter URL: <https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/winter>

Space URL: <https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/space>

Climate URL: <https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/climate>

Aviation URL: <https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/aviation>

Marine URL: <https://viewer.weather.noaa.gov/marine>

Technical functionality and the "look and feel" are consistent across all the Viewer program sites. Therefore all sites, operational and experimental will receive the updates described above. Each program site is designed to feature data most relevant to the type of weather, water, and/or climate focus areas represented by the program site. You can also access program sites from the Change Site icon on the main toolbar.

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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