



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM:

David B. Caldwell
David Caldwell

Director, Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services

SUBJECT:

NWS Disposition on the Proposal to Replace Eta-based MOS with NAM
MOS Products

On July 21, 2008, the National Weather Service (NWS) released for public comment a proposal http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/old/pns08_replace_eta_mos.txt to replace Eta-based MOS guidance products with equivalent products based on the current configuration of the North American Mesoscale (NAM) model. The comment period closed on August 20, 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 Direction 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 email to the MOS users group. Responses were generally supportive given that this proposal calls for a direct substitution of NAM-based products in place of all Eta-based counterparts, the general configuration of the MOS guidance suite will not change.

2. NWS Decision

NWS tests indicate that the skill of the NAM MOS compares favorably to that of the Eta-based MOS guidance over both the CONUS and Alaska. Now that an adequate NAM MOS package exists, adoption of the current proposal would allow for termination of Eta model runs and the reallocation of central computing resources being used solely to support the production of Eta MOS.

Given the above, the NWS has decided to proceed with the Eta MOS replacement. Therefore, effective on or about December 9, 2008, the NWS will replace the Eta MOS with NAM-based MOS guidance.

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

