

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 178 (7/12/06)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EDT in Room 3246 on Wednesday, July 12, 2006, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.
2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Joe Palko, Cindy Scott, Dave Novak; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **OCWWS**: Shannon White;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of OB7.1: Concerning the beta phase of OB7.1, an e-mail was sent out yesterday indicating there will be a minimum of a one week slip in the start of the beta testing phase. Raytheon is making progress with closing and testing the fixes for critical DRs. As of today July 12, 29 critical and 37 major DRs remained open. We have been working with Raytheon to establish criteria for the transition from the alpha to the beta testing phase. We recommended to Raytheon that all identified critical defects be closed and tested prior to installation of the OB7.1 beta software at operational forecast sites, and they have agreed to do so. We may transition to the beta phase as early as next Monday, this will be determined at a beta readiness review scheduled to be held on Monday, July 17, 2006. The tentative planning schedule is to test OB7.1 on NMTW on July 18 and the first headquarters beta site installation would occur at VHW on July 19. [Post Script: As of Friday, July 14, 6 Critical DRs remain open or untested, and 48 Major DRs remain open or untested in OB7.1.]

Concerning the DX3 and DX4 installs: the OAT was supposed to continue with installation at site ILN today but they have run into weather and it may be cancelled. There is a potential for a delay of the OB7.1 installation schedule if we can't install DX 3 and 4 at ILN this week.

[Editor's Note: The installation of DX 3 and 4 at ILN was completed.]

There is new functionality for three new data sets in OB7.1: the OPC and TAFB Gridded Significant Wave Height, the gridded MOS; and for Polar Vis imagery. The TOC moratorium has prevented some of this data from going out on the SBN so Raytheon cannot do the proper testing. This data is not yet available from the TOC, but test data has been provided to Raytheon. Testing of the functionality with these new data sets has not yet been completed but is required prior to national deployment of the AWIPS OB7.1 Release.

The pre-requisites for AWIPS Major Release OB7.1 are for sites to install DX3 and DX4 using the mod notes, have installed the final version of Major Release OB6.0 on their system, and it is strongly recommended (but not required) that sites have installed Maintenance Release OB6.1. All the fixes for DRs included in the Maintenance Release OB6.1 will be included in OB7.1.

Last but not least, all the regional focal points are reminded to provide responses on the need to fix any of the major discrepancies in OB7.1 to Jamie Vavra by this Friday.

b. Status of July 11 WarnGen Turn Key: On July 11, 2006, there were minor adjustments to the WarnGen software. These adjustments are related to several milestones, which have been mentioned in the GSD and AWIPS SST provided OB6 Implementation Guides. Prior to July 11, the SST ran a script to verify the use of the WarnGen OB6 Areal Flood Templates at all sites. These templates included the segmented format for the Areal Flood Products (FLW, FLS). The SST will work with any site not found to have activated the OB6 Areal Flood Templates. To date, 10 WFOs have not activated their templates.

At 18Z on July 11, 2006, the SST ran a script to implement two new features, if they have not already been completed. The first feature is the Extension in time functionality for all hydrology products. The second feature to be implemented is Correction for Follow-up Statement functionality.

Shannon White stated that the WarnGen training job sheets have been updated with this information and posted.

c. Focal Point/Participants Reports, Problems and Concerns:

Alaska Region: A number of Raytheon folks are visiting the regional headquarters this week. We are giving them a briefing on our operations here in Alaska. Concerning the WarnGen turn key, site AFC will perform it tomorrow afternoon. The HazCollect (phase 2) has been done at AFC and we will install the firewall replacement at AFC next week. We are expecting to install DX3 and DX4 on our regional system on August 14 and 15 and then will install OB7.1 the week of August 22.

What is the status of the LDAD replacement system? Jim Lane responded that Raytheon has proposed a hardware system along with a testing and integration method for the NWS to review. A system should be purchased by the end of the month and we are expecting to field a final system in 5-6 months.

Eastern Region: We have heard that there will be a briefing of the GFE support to the focal points at a future RACC call. The response was that the OS&T is working on a briefing package to be given at a future RACC sometime this summer.

We put in a proposal through the OSIP for pre-release software for OB8. For the interests of the rest of the regions, the matter is in the hands of the SREC to prioritize it against the OB8 functionality.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: The WES box at site LOX went out and we would like to know what is the maintenance policy on this hardware? The response was even though the boxes were procured with AWIPS money, they are not technically part of AWIPS so thus it is up to the regions to maintain them.

Also, we use the PWG Weekly Performance files for the DS. Once the DX 3 & 4 are installed and operational, will the reports be generated for that hardware?

ACTION ITEM 178-1: Find out if the PWG Weekly Performance files will be generated for DX3 and DX4 once they are operational. (Jim Stenpeck) [Editor's note: Dave Niver of Raytheon responded in the affirmative. His e-mail was forwarded to the regional focal points.]

Software Note #62 states that a DVD of the software changes for the site ID change for WFO Key West would be sent to the sites most impacted by the Key West change. Site MTR was asking if they could receive this DVD. The response was that the changes will be included in OB7.1 but if the site needs the information before OB7.1 is deployed, let Jamie Vavra know so she can see that a DVD can be sent to MTR.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26, 2006. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Wayne Martin. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.