

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 232 (September 3, 2008)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in Room 3246 on Wednesday, September 3, 2008, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.

2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations outside of Silver Spring) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Joshua Watson, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sheila Deiotte; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Joe Cannon; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NCEP**: Joe Byerly; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

a. Status of Upcoming Software Releases (Chris Marshall):

OB8.3.1: WarnGen regression testing is continuing on NMTW through Friday. Installations at remaining beta sites are scheduled for September 8-10. Installation instructions will be sent to the sites on Thursday and testing information/CDs will be provided by this Friday or next Monday. The readiness review is planned for September 19. Regular deployment is currently projected to begin around September 29. All WFOs must complete installation by November 3 to prepare for the TAF format change at 00z on November 5.

OB8.3.0.2: This is a new emergency release for DR 20467. The files will be checking in, built, and released today. An ATAN for DR 20467 will be sent to 27 sites. This ATAN deals with ETNs for Tropical Storm (TR) and Hurricane (HU) hazards getting purged after 24 hours.

LDAD Repartitioning: Installations were completed on WSH test systems NHDA and NHOR this week with no problems encountered. Remaining installs are scheduled to occur at site Central Region Headquarters (BCQ) on September 11 and both WFO Pleasant Hill, MO (EAX) and the Missouri Basin River Forecast Center (KRF) on September 15. The Readiness Review is planned for September 19 with regular deployment projected to begin around September 29.

OB9: The alpha and SwIT testing began on this past Monday. There are currently 48 open DRs in the release. The remaining alpha installation schedule is the NMTR on September 4, site BCQ on September 10, and site Southern Region Headquarters (EHU) on September 17. Forecasters are scheduled to test the software at BCQ on September 15-19. Regular deployment is projected to begin somewhere between February 9 and March 23, 2009.

b. Verify Extreme Wind Warning Configuration (Wayne Martin): In preparation for Hurricane Gustav, the WFO at Houston, TX (HGX) was testing the ability of their AWIPS system to create hurricane warning products when they discovered that the WMO header for the Extreme Wind Warning (EWW) product was not correct. Without the correct WMO header, the EWW warning product would not be recognized by NWS partners and customers. Site HGX and the SST

discovered that the problem was that the EWW product was not listed in the afos2awips.txt file on the text workstation. The afos2awips.txt configuration file on HGX's servers and graphic workstations correctly had the EWW product included but for some reason these entries were not included in the afos2awips.txt configuration file on the text workstations. The SST checked 10 other AWIPS systems that might be issuing hurricane products for Gustav and discovered 3 AWIPS systems that were also missing the EWW product from their afos2awips.txt file. The SST contacted each of these AWIPS systems to inform them of the problem. Since this afos2awips.txt problem with missing EWW entries in the text workstation occurred on 4 of the 11 AWIPS systems the SST checked, we thought it would be best if all 47 WFOs that are authorized to issue this product verify that the EWW product is included in the afos2awips.txt file on the text workstations. An initial examination of the 47 WFOs authorized to issue the EWW product reveal that there are still 23 WFOs that are missing this product in their afos2awips.txt file. The listing is contained in the attached PowerPoint file (titled "Verifying Extreme Wind Warning Product") to these minutes.

All WFOs which are approved to issue the EWW product should update their afos2awips.txt file to include the new EWW products that they may issue. WFOs which may provide service backup for one of the WFOs that are approved to issue the EWW product should also update their afos2awips.txt file.

More information about the EWW product can be found at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hurricane/eww.shtml>. The web page provides a description of the new EWW product and an example. OB7.2 delivered 2 new WarnGen templates for the EWW product. More information is contained in the attached file.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: Is there a fall satellite preventive maintenance (PM) schedule out yet? Sanford Garrard took the action item to ask James Washington of the NCF about any upcoming PM schedules.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2008. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Frank Lucadamo. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.