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From: Brian Gross, Acting Director
 NCEP/Environmental Modeling Center

Subject: Soliciting Public Comments on the Proposed
 Upgrade of the CMAQ through Apr 13, 2018

The Environmental Modeling Center (EMC), Air Resources Lab (ARL), and Earth Systems Research Laboratory (ESRL) are proposing to upgrade the National Air Quality Forecast Capability (NAQFC) Community Model for Air Quality (CMAQ) model in summer of 2018. NWS is seeking comments on this proposed change through April 13, 2018.

On March 1, 2018, EMC began disseminating experimental CMAQ Continental U.S. (CONUS) bias corrected guidance and upgrades to the Alaska and Hawaii CMAQ system. This change was announced in an evaluation letter that was distributed on March 8, 2018. Graphical comparisons to operational AQM are online at:

<http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/qa/cmaqparabc/web/html/max.html>

For CONUS, the CMAQ Kalman Filter Analog (KFAN) bias correction system for fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) will be improved to use a consistent training data set, additional monitor sites and a unified KFAN bias correction system. For the first time, the unified KFAN bias correction system will also be employed on CMAQ ozone predictions. Over Alaska and Hawaii, the CMAQ code will be unified with the CONUS EPA Version 5.0.2. The full list of changes are described in presentations and the experimental change log that are accessible from the EMC NAQFC web page at:

<http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/qa>

Expected benefits from this upgrade include more accurate bias corrected PM2.5 and a new bias corrected ozone product that capture rare ozone events better.

Experimental CMAQ output in grib2 format is online at:

http://ftp.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/qa/for_NDGD_5x_expr/

The NWS will evaluate all comments to determine whether to proceed with this upgrade. If evaluation is positive, upgraded products will be available operationally on <http://airquality.weather.gov>

Send comments on this proposal to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notif.htm>

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