NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Experimental Product
DATE: December 15, 2002

MULTI-FORMAT FORECAST INFORMATION WEB PAGE

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. **Product/Service Description:**
Advances in computer capabilities and web services technologies, as well as scientific advances in National Weather Service (NWS) software, have afforded an opportunity for NWS to create customer-based products and services. Information dissemination via the world wide web (www) allows customers to obtain higher resolution forecast information in a variety of formats on demand.

2. **Purpose/Intended Use:**
This experimental version of an interactive forecast information web page is being made available to:

   a. Allow users to access forecast information that is always current with higher resolution than is possible in traditional text forecast products which are averaged over time and space.

   b. Allow customers to view forecast information retrieved directly from locally prepared forecast grids in a variety of formats, including icons, text, tabular and graphic.

   c. Receive feedback from those users on potential refinements to interactive information retrieval.

3. **Audience:**
The current audience for the forecast information web page consists of the general public and partners such as emergency management, media and private meteorological companies.

4. **Presentation Format:**
The web grid point forecasts are presented for display as HTML in text, hourly meteogram, and digital/tabular format. The forecasts can be viewed using a web browser, and then selected on a map location or by entering specified latitude and longitude coordinates. A sample of this web page can be found at http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/.

5. **Feedback Method:**
We are always seeking to improve our products based on user feedback. Therefore, users of this experimental product are asked to complete the survey located at http://products.weather.gov/. The users should send their completed surveys to NWSProducts@noaa.gov. Comments will be compiled and evaluated by June, 2003.

   Technical questions may be addressed via e-mail to: mark.mitchell@noaa.gov.

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**
   Grid point forecasts can be viewed in text, hourly meteogram, and digital/tabular format. Data are extracted from the Graphical Forecast Editor (GFE) program on a routine basis, then processed and sent to the NWS Central Region Web Server. Data are available at a spatial resolution of 5 kilometers. Data fields include, surface temperature, dewpoint, wind speed and direction, weather, sky cover, and probability of precipitation. Text forecasts are available out to 7 days; meteograms to 48 hours; digital/tabular forecasts to 120 hours.

2. **Availability:**
   Updates to grid point forecasts are made once an hour from the existing GFE database. These updates are generally available at quarter past every hour.

3. **Additional Information:**
   The interactive forecast information display web page is being developed at the Pleasant Hill, Missouri, Weather Forecast Office (WFO) and tested on several other WFO web sites. Initially, sites testing this experimental information retrieval system were:

   In Central Region:
   Pleasant Hill, MO
   Aberdeen, SD
   Gaylord, MI
   Duluth, MN
   Detroit, MI
   Sioux Falls, SD
   Goodland, KS
   Wichita, KS
   North Platte, NE
   Milwaukee, WI
   Marquette, MI
   Omaha, NE
   Peublo, CO
   Springfield, MO
   Rapid City, SD

   In Eastern Region:
   Boston, MA
   Binghamton, NY
   Sterling, VA

   In Southern Region:
   Tulsa, OK

   Access to these forecast offices web pages can be made by navigating from the National Weather Service web page: http://www.nws.noaa.gov and from regional web sites.