ARCHIVAL AND AVAILABILITY OF DATA

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ABSTRACT

Dr. Easterling provided a description of the NOAA's Data Archiving and Access system used at NCDC. NCDC archives contain a variety of formats and forms, such as 200 million pages of manuscripts, 2,300 miles of microfilm, 114 miles of microfiche, instrument strip charts, satellite data on optical disks, 26- and 35-mm film, and computer records. NCDC has some funding to convert these records, as much as possible, to digital records. The conversion will enable both on line and off line access. The quality control of the data/records is now performed as it is received. NCDC is pondering how to accomplish this for the older records. This is especially important for the development of a climate change baseline. Access to the data will be improved through migration of the records to robotic mass storage systems that can be accessed on line. The current schedule to migrate records is as follows: NEXRAD and *in situ* data – 2003, Polar Operational Environmental Satellite data - 2004, and Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite data – 2005.

The NOAA Operational Model Archive and Distribution System (NOMADS) is a colaborative project that provides for distributed model data access over the Internet and planning for the Next Generation Internet access. The lack of access to climate and weather model data initiated the highly collaborative project. The use of the eXtended Markup Language (XML) allows nearly format independent access to records. Many institutions both inside and outside of NOAA understand the importance of NOMADS and are collaborating to guarantee its success. Currently, there are 5 NOAA laboratories and 9 external entities included under the NOMADS framework. NOMADS has proven the concept of distributing model climate and weather data over the Internet.