

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 182 (9/6/06)

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, September 6, 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; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Andy Edman; **CRH**: Bill Gery; **ARH**: Duane Carpenter, Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Mark Mathewson; **NWSTC**: Dave Cokely; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **OCWWS**: Shannon White;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of OB7.1: The IFPS service backup issue continues to delay installations at the remaining beta sites. However, the latest round of service backup testing has produced positive results. If the remainder of the tests are successful, then installations may be able to resume as soon as September 13 at site MHX. The current SVR date is scheduled for October 6 and regular deployment around October 18.

The OB7.1 test procedures were posted to the AWIPS workstations at all sites and onto the One Stop web page. The test procedures can be used at beta test sites to evaluate new functionality (such as new data sets in D2D) and all the fixes and enhancements in OB7.1. Included is a form to be filled out upon completion of the test procedures. If a site encounters a problem during their testing, they should report it to Jamie Vavra who will in turn forward the problem onto Raytheon.

- b. Planned Changes to National RPS List: A new Mesocyclone Detection Algorithm and products (MD, DMD) were implemented on the WSR-88D RPG in 2004 and the legacy Mesocyclone algorithm and products (M, MRU) will be removed from the RPG in WSR-88D Build 10. To begin collection of the MD/141 product in October 2006, updated National RPS lists (**rps-RPGOP-tcp.clear-air** or **rps-RPGOP-tcp.storm** and **prodList.txt** files) will be posted to the NDM web site (they will be removed from the baseline software in OB7.1) and will then need to be updated on all AWIPS sites. Mike Istok asked what is the process and procedure for updating the files and invoking these changes? Wayne Martin responded that Mark Albertelly and Fran Curnow are responsible for updating the national RPS lists and that Wayne could push the updated files to all the sites when necessary. If a localization is also needed, this could be worked out with the sites.

- c. Additional Model Data Types for RPG Ingest: A new capability with OB7.2 is that AWIPS can be configured to periodically send to the WSR-88D RPG a small 3D portion of a forecast model which is representative of the radar coverage volume, time, and space. RPG Build 9 only supports ingest of the RUC model, however AWIPS can be configured to send other models to it for future RPG builds. Mike Istok asked what other model types should we add in the future? Mike asked the regions to think this over and to send him any comments within the next

2-3 weeks. This information is especially needed for the OCONUS sites that do not get the RUC model.

d. Sites Test Local NWEM Methods Shortly after HazCollect Activation: As of today, 85 WFOs out of a total of 122 have activated their Hazcollect (phase 3). Mike Moss appreciates the regional focal points help and he feels confident that all sites can be activated by the deadline date of September 30. However, there is more effort needed in that testing of the legacy applications using the new HazCollect formatters needs to be done. The sites need to test the distribution of the new messages once they've been activated using HazCollect. We have described how to do this in the AWIPS Application Installation Instruction Note 17, Section A.2.3. However, this note is still in draft form due to a critical DR found during the recent OAT. Sites can still use it for this part of testing and the note should be issued in final in a few days.

e. WarnGen Segmented Flooding Products Issue Dealing with RiverPro: Last week, a trouble ticket was written up for a problem encountered at site RLX. The problem was the follow up flash flood statements would cause WarnGen to crash. The problem has not yet been solved and it is thought to be a problem with the format of the products which causes the follow up statements to crash WarnGen. But according to GSD, this crashing was not caused by a mixture of segmented and non-segmented products in the database nor if the products had VTEC or not.

f. AWIPS Full Court Press: The AWIPS Full Court Press has not been issued to the regional and field sites in several years. This was a newsletter that was issued on a regular basis and it summarized the status of upcoming software and hardware projects. The Western Region inquired recently about reviving this newsletter. Thuy Tran sent to the regional focal points a draft template for their comments. The consensus of the focal points is that the newsletter should be a higher level summary of upcoming projects and could be issued on a monthly basis. This newsletter would be sent via e-mail to the regional focal points, who would in turn send it to their field sites. The focal points would have the discretion to either add or delete information.

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

Alaska Region: We are receiving our printer replacements but the shipments are coming to sites in a piecemeal fashion.

Central Region: We are also getting the printer replacements in a piecemeal fashion and have asked Jim Lane at WSH if this is the normal shipment mode. And we would also like to see a schedule. So far, we have not heard back from Jim.

Site EAX reported that the power supply for their DS1 and DS2 went bad and they contacted the NCF on how to obtain a replacement. The NCF told the site that the power supply for the DSs will not be replaced since the DXs will be operational soon. The problem is that the site is still on OB6.1. Bill Gery was asked to send to the RACC moderator a writeup of the situation so we can forward it to Randy Chambers and James Washington (NCF) to see if there was a misunderstanding or misinformation was given to the site.

Eastern Region: We also have sent questions concerning the printer replacement to Jim Lane at

WSH and are awaiting a response. If no response is received in the next week or so, the RACC moderator will see if Jim Lane is available to come to the next RACC.

Also, some sites are reporting problems with the climate software. One example is that a F6 is sent out with the wrong number of days of precipitation. Sites have called the NCF and trouble tickets have been recorded. However, we cannot find the DRs on these particular trouble tickets. Karen Tepera of Raytheon will contact Joe Palko for the particular trouble ticket numbers in order to find the associated DRs.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: We have noticed on our regional system (running a beta OB7.1) that some products had their number of versions were cut back to only two. An example is some plots viewable in D2D. No other region has reported seeing this occur at their beta sites. Mike Moss of the SST asked that Eric write up the details of the problem and send it to him so he can look into the situation.

Western Region: There have been several reports of delays in receiving requests of spot forecasts from the NWSSpot Server. Some of these delays have been up 30 minutes. Since this information is used in issuing Fire Weather Spot Forecasts for fires, the weather forecast information returned to the requestor is time sensitive. Western Region has been in contact with Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) on this issue. Andy Edman will provide any updates in future to the Regional Focal Points.

The Weather Event Simulator (WES) workstations are being replaced. The new WES boxes are being paid out of the Training Budget and shipment has begun. Sites might confuse these boxes with the other AWIPS hardware being deployed. The Warning Decision Training Branch will be providing the installation instructions. If you have any questions, then you can contact your Regional SSD Chiefs.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: We have completed installing OB6.1 on all our systems and we thank Raytheon for assisting us with a few snags.

Warning Decision Training Branch: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

Shannon White: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, 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.

