

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 206 (8/22/07)

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, August 22, 2007, 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**: Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Steve Baker; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of OB8.1 and Other Software Issues: Software releases OB7.2.1.1, OB8.1, and OB8.1.0.1 continue to be installed at the field sites and are progressing well. We are gearing up for the OB8.2 alpha period. The first install will be on the NMTR system on September 5. Sites BCQ, EHU, and the OSFW will be the first field sites testing the alpha version.

Concerning the DS decommissioning, we will finish installing it on the NMTW tomorrow. Beta testing is scheduled to begin the week of August 27 and Software Mod Note 68 will be sent to those beta sites scheduled for next week. Regular deployment is scheduled to begin on October 8.

- b. Status of Upcoming Software Releases: Karen Tepera reports that the NCF says the installation time for OB8.1/8.1.0.1 is usually less than 2.5 hours on average per site and this is good news.

OB8.2: The GFE Pre-release is available to download from the J Boss server. The Alpha Readiness Review is scheduled for August 24. Regular deployment is expected to begin on January 3, 2008.

OB8.3: We are in software development for this release. Raytheon did a rebuild with the COTS that is expected with this release. Code check-in is expected to begin on September 25.

- c. Removal of NAWIPS Graphic Products from fxatext Database: The Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) produces QPG Forecast Guidance Products. The QPG products are NAWIPS Vector Graphic products for use by the River Forecast Centers. Prior to transmitting the QPG graphic products to the NCF, HPC converts these products into text products and it is the converted text products which are sent to the NCF for SBN transmission. From the SBN, all AWIPS systems receive the QPG converted text products and store these products in the AWIPS fxatext database. When the RFCs receive the text QPG products, the RFCs convert these products back into NAWIPS Vector Graphic format for use in the RFC's forecasting operations. The problem is that all AWIPS systems receive and store the NAWIPS Vector Graphic products in the fxatext database and these products are occupying database storage space that could be better used by other products. Specific examples are provided in the attachment titled "RemovalOfQPGProductsFromTextStorage".

It is doubtful that any AWIPS system other than an RFC is using these products. If an AWIPS system wants to prevent the QPG products from storing in the fxatext database and remove old QPG product from the fxatext database, they can follow the procedures that are shown in the attachment. The QPG product occupy approximately 4 MB of storage which could be better used by other text products. Wayne Martin can provide more formal and detailed instructions if required. Upon further discussion, it was proposed that the CPs be used to filter this data at the WFOs. Wayne will take this suggestion into consideration and will bring this up at a future RACC call.

Reminder about MOS and LAMP Storage Proposals: This proposal was made at the last RACC on August 8. This is a reminder for the regions get any comments back to Wayne Martin by September 7. Wayne has already heard from the Western Region.

Update on 25 New NWS Satellite Uplinks Project: This project was discussed in detail at the July 25 RACC call. The update is the CSC Corporation will be contacting the ESA at each of the affected WFOs concerning surveys of the uplink equipment. CSC will also schedule installations of the equipment at each site and all installations should be completed by the end of September. Several comments came back to Wayne Martin concerning his recent issuance of AWIPS Mod Note 37. One comment brought up is when does a site perform the procedure in the mod note as it was unclear when it should be done? Wayne stated that it is best for the site to perform the instructions the day before CSC is scheduled to install their hardware at the new uplink sites.

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

Alaska Region: Did not call in.

Central Region: Did not call in.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: Steve Baker had some questions concerning the hardware on the new NWS satellite uplink sites. These were not addressed in the Mod Note 37 since it addressed only software issues. It was decided that OPS17 at Weather Service Headquarters would be the office that could address these concerns. Steve Baker took the action item to send an e-mail about his hardware concerns to OPS17 (Craig Hodan and Marty Baron) and would cc: the Eastern Region since some of their sites are involved and would need to know these answers.

Western Region: Did not call in.

GSD: Did not call in.

NWSTC: Did not call in.

Warning Decision Training Branch: nothing significant to report.

NRC: Did not call in.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5, 2007. 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.