

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 245 (April 1, 2009)

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, April 1, 2009, 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**: Joshua Watson; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sheila Deiotte; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Joe Rubel; **PRH**: Vuong Tang; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NCEP**: Joe Byerly; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Mike Magsig; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

a. Status of Upcoming Software Issues:

OB9: Regular deployment began on February 9 and most sites have installed it. Several issues related to the recompiling of the FORTRAN code and hydro software have been observed at various RFC sites. The problems are being investigated.

OB9.0.1: The regular deployment for this emergency release began on March 31. This release contains corrections for slow loading radar mosaics (DR 20780) and unit hydrograph issues (DR 20787). The NCF installed the release at most applicable sites on March 31. Four RFCs (PTR, RSA, KRF, TAR) are waiting on the solution for DR 20806 before implementing the code with the DR 20787 fix.

OB9.1: All installations have been postponed due to Red Hat kernel issues. Slow NFS traffic related to the new kernel has not been resolved. A Red Hat engineer will be onsite in Silver Spring the week of April 6 to further analyze the specific issues for AWIPS. Beta and deployment dates will be recalculated once the project resumes.

OB9.2: Fifty DRs have been accepted and assigned to the release. Code check in date is April 28. Due to the issues in OB9.1, the software integration, beta and deployment of this release will likely be impacted. Beta was planned to begin June 8 and regular deployment on July 6.

Note: Sites with customized WarnGen templates that need to incorporate the new CTA markers are being encouraged to complete staff training and to make the necessary template and software changes by mid-May when NWS partners and users will expect these changes to be implemented.

b. WarnGen ETN Quality Control Checking Problems: With the recent floods in the Midwest, several Trouble Tickets have been opened concerning Event Tracking Numbers (ETN). The resulting message that pops up on the screen says the VTEC ETN number is higher than the highest ETN in the text database and basically questions the forecaster about using this number, the number 001 or re-editing the product.. This confuses the forecasters and they should select

the highest number when prompted with this question. This problem is covered by DR 20276 and will be fixed in OB9.2.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: We replaced at regional headquarters the AWIPS Xyplex MaxServer 1640s with Cyclades ACS48s on Monday afternoon and Tuesday. We installed it with the new NAS in place and it appears to be functioning okay.

Western Region: For the last few months, some of our sites have complained about the replacement toner cartridges with the color printers. Some are leaking and the sites ended up replacing their actual printers with their own local funds. We have complained to the NLSC and to no avail. Jeff Sickles suggests to contact Mike Clark at the NLSC and to cc himself and Eric Pharr.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: The WES 9.0 was released almost 2 months ago. The OB9 training is out there. The WDTB is considering releasing an update for WES9.0 to add GFE capability for tropical training coming from the OB9.2 changes. The OB9.2 changes are being ATAN'ed to tropical sites, so this maybe needed in the next month or two, ahead of the OB9.2 release schedule.

NRC: nothing more to add to the comments made in the Western region discussion.

NCEP: nothing significant to report.

Shannon White: We are beginning alpha phase testing of the tropical changes of HLS and will get the first build of GFE for the 39 sites. The ATAN will be deployed to the 39 sites the week of May 4. We will provide the link to download the GFE.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2009. 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.