

APPENDIX C

U.S. Statement on WAFS Transition Schedule

The U.S. asks that this statement be appended to the report of the recent AERMET/SG WAFS Task Force Meeting, convened in Santiago, Chile, 2-3 April, 2002.

While not requesting changes to the Report, which reflects the discussions at the meeting, the information to be presented here affects information provided under Agenda Item 1, Appendix A, specifically Tasks 10, 12 and 14, Vision of the Final Phase, and in Agenda Item 3, Training, paragraph 3.1.1.

After the meeting in Santiago, the U.S. further assessed the complexity of producing wind/temperature charts from the global model data provided in GRIB format, on the STAR4, and the funding expected to be available to assist WMO in training personnel from States in CAR/SAM and Asia/PAC, and to assist States, through the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Program (VCP), with the purchase of new workstations. The U.S. also conferred with U.K. to assess the expectation of all States under the Satellite Distribution System (SADIS) having the ability too produce wind/temperature charts from the GRIB data by mid-2003.

It was determined:

While it is possible to produce wind/temperature charts using the PCGRIDDS software contained in the STAR4, it is difficult and time consuming, and would be for each model run. Further, since the STAR4 software is no longer being updated, there would be no shortcuts made available to make the task easier.

The U.K. was concerned that a number of States using SADIS workstations would not have purchased and installed the new software necessary for their workstations to be able to produce the wind/temperature charts from GRIB by mid-2003.

The International Activities Office of the U.S. National Weather Service recommended the funds which would be used to provide assistance with training on the STAR4 would be better used if added to funding already expected to be provided to the WMO VCP to assist States with the purchase of the new workstations. This recommendation was based on the fact that the STAR4 would only be used for about a year after the training to provide the wind/temperature charts.

Therefore:

The U.S. proposes:

1. Continuing issuance of wind/temperature graphics in T4 format on ISCS through at least late 2004, when all T4 graphics, both wind/temperature and SIGWX, would be removed. This will fit well with the expected timing of the new ISCS contract.
2. The removal of all T4 graphics, both wind temperature and SIGWX, would occur after States have their new workstations, have received training from their workstations providers, and attended Regional training workshops. Producing charts – both SIGWX and wind /temperature on the new workstations is very simple, as demonstrated by Neil Halsey at the meeting.
3. The U.S. will assist with funding of the new workstations through WMO VCP, and will assist with funding of the Regional Workshops through WMO.

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