

Segment 5 – Crosscutting Weather Information Issues: Weather Policy

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By: Rick Heuwinkel

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Federal Aviation
Administration



Policy Issues

- **Controlling Product Proliferation**
- **Federal Guidance on Visualization of Gridded Data**
- **Manual vs Automated PIREPS**
- **Status of TAMDAR**
- **Major policy issues in NGATS**



Controlling Product Proliferation

- **R&D Program Goal = reduce number of products in operation as new products are implemented**
 - Products partially overlapping existing products remain Supplementary
 - Examples: CIP, FIP, GTG
 - Products completely overlapping existing products replace current product and take on legacy product name
 - Example: Generate Convective Sigmet from NCWF2 rather than issue NCWF2 as a standalone product
 - Migrate toward replacing all products of a particular parameter with a single product suite
 - Example: Consolidated Convective Product



Federal Guidance on Visualization of Gridded Data

- **Regulated users are required to use wx information from an “official source”**
- **Commercial providers perform value-added processing without altering basic content.**
- **New products being issued in gridded form requiring visualization software to display information**
 - Great opportunity for tailored display and integration into DST
 - Also opportunity to commit display errors
- **Solutions range from certification of visualization software to issuing display standards for voluntary compliance**
- **To be worked over next year+.**



Manual vs Automated PIREPS

- **Manual and Automated PIREPS of actual weather conditions are valuable for verifying forecasts and for warning other pilots.**
- **FAA's strategy to improve the quality and quantity of such reports is to emphasize automated PIREPS**
 - More objective regarding location and intensity
 - Less expensive in long-term
- **MDCRS delivers well in excess of 100,000 observations per day**
- **TAMDAR, under cost/benefit review, holds promise**
- **2nd Generation Water Vapor sensor currently under acquisition review**



Major policy issues in NGATS

- **Vertical integration (sensor, processor, communications, and display) all in one system will be supplanted.**
- **Horizontal integration is the direction for the future:**
 - Looking at ways to outsource sensors.
 - Data assimilation/forecasting will be integrated into a virtual data cube
 - SWIM will provide communications between sensors, processors, and application platforms.
 - Applications platforms will operate on gridded data obtained from SWIM
- **Significant reliance upon commercial entities for all four of the functions above.**