Is it easy to find? No

Is it easy to access? Yes

Is it easy to interpret? No

What type of file format is the data saved in? It is just an arbitrarily formatted text file, but luckily the ftp site contains a pdf with “data format documentation, required to read and interpret the data” that is only 137 pages. Fortunately, the ftp site does contain a Java program that converts the data into a space delimited format, and the ReadMe provides instructions for \*nix/Mac and Windows XP. And there’s even a Fortran program to summarize the data by day.

That all seems overly complicated, so thankfully they provide a “lite” subset of data that will meet most people’s needs and is a simple fixed-width formatted document that pandas can easily read.