

Notes on NHDPlus HR National Release 2 and Additions to “Known Issues” section of the NHDPlus HR website

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Note: The process of aggregating all the VPU distribution datasets led to the discovery of the following issues with some of the VPU distribution datasets:

1. VPU 0415 was an early prototype dataset that was superseded when WBD was changed for Region 04, eliminating HU4 0415 entirely. This VPU should be removed from the “Current” section of VPU downloads and moved to the “Archive” section. This was actually pre-Beta release, so it doesn’t really even belong in anything labeled “Beta”. Probably the best solution is to remove it entirely from our distribution site. It was never intended for distribution.

The following notes should be added to the Known Issues section of the NHDPlus HR website:

2. Many updates to NHD were made in Region 06 (VPUs 0601, 0602, 0603, and 0604) since the initial ‘Beta’ NHDPlus HR datasets were released, and those updated datasets are available as individual VPU datasets for download. However, those data were not included in the National Release 2 aggregated dataset because of errors that disconnected the Tennessee River from the Ohio River, leaving the entire region isolated and disconnected. The initial “Beta” release of these VPUs is used instead in National Release 2. If a user wants the updated data, they should be aware that the VAAs do not reflect connection of the Tennessee River to the Ohio River, and some attributes, such as PathLength, reflect a network that ends at the mouth of the Tennessee River and does not connect to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers downstream.
3. A software error that affected VPUs processed early in NHDPlus HR production resulted in many sinks being assigned the default GridCode value of zero. This resulted in the catchments derived from those sinks being indistinguishable from each other and merged into a single large multi-part polygon for each affected VPU. The issue was fixed in subsequently processed VPUs, but remains in VPUIDs 0903, 1007, 1015, 1021, 1022, and 1025.