NOAA-N, -N Prime Supplement

Below is a summary of format changes for the NOAA-N and N Prime spacecrafts.

When NOAA-N (NOAA-18) was launched a number of changes were made to the data formats; necessitated by the replacement of AMSU-B with the Microwave Humidity Sounder (MHS), the replacement of HIRS/3 with HIRS/4, and changes in the direct readout formats. All effort was made to keep the changes to a minimum.

These changes to the NOAA Level 1b formats were implemented on January 25, 2005, and was applied to all satellite (NOAA-15, -16, -17, and 18) from that date forward. The format changes were known as version 3.

Part of the updates to the NOAA-N and N Prime Level 1b formats is the inclusion of additional or secondary header records. These header records contain ancillary dataset names and any metadata needed for data reprocessing. Software applications should use the "Count of Header Records in the Data Set" field, located in the first or primary header record to calculate the position of the first data record and skip the secondary header records.

The following sections in the NOAA KLM User's Guide provide the user with detailed information on the specific changes.
1) Microwave Humidity Sounder (MHS) instrument replaced the AMSU-B
Section 3.9 describes the MHS instrument
Section 7.6 describes calibration procedures for MHS
Section 8.3.1.9 describes the MHS Level 1b format
2) HIRS/4 instead of HIRS/3 instrument
Section 3.2 (originally describing HIRS/3 only) has been modified to accommodate HIRS/4 description.
Section 8.3.1.5 describes the Level 1b data set structure for HIRS/3 and HIRS/4.
3) AVHRR changes
Section 8.3.1.1 describes the Level 1b data set structure.
Section 8.3.1.3 describes the AVHRR/3 Level 1b dataset format for LAC/HRPT.
Section 8.3.1.4 describes the AVHRR/3 Level 1b dataset format for GAC.
4) Advanced DCS (A-DCS) changes
 Section 3.6 (originally describing DCS) has been modified to include A-DCS for NOAA-N Prime.
5) Direct Readout formats
Section 4.1.2 describes the transmitter frequency and website which provides latest information on individual POES spacecraft.
Section 4.1.3.2 describes the HRPT Minor frame format for NOAA-N,-N Prime