NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 80-2
APRIL 27, 2010

Science and Technology

SYSTEM COMMISSIONING AND DECOMMISSIONING

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OPR: OPS2 (Neal DiPasquale) **Certified by:** OPS (Mark Paese)
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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSPD 80-2, *System Commissioning and Decommissioning*, dated October 1, 2002, with Information Technology (IT) security requirements per NWS policy and editorial changes.

1. The NWS will follow a standard process to ensure NWS major systems can support operations and use at field sites by field staff. This process is referred to as system commissioning and will follow an approved system-specific commissioning plan. The NWS will follow an approved system-specific decommissioning plan for the removal of legacy systems and equipment. The commissioning and decommissioning processes may or may not be interconnected.
2. The objective of the commissioning process is to ensure major systems meet NWS requirements, specifications, policies, and procedures before their official use in NWS field operations.
3. The objective of the commissioning process is to ensure an orderly process for the removal of NWS equipment from its use in field operations.
   - The new system must have met the pertinent Information Technology certification and accreditation requirements before its commissioning.
4. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

   4.1. The Assistant Administrator for Weather Services is responsible for the overall implementation of NWS System Commissioning and Decommissiong Policies.

   4.2. The Director, Office of Operational Systems (OPS), in coordination with the Director, Office of Science and Technology, will specify which major systems will be commissioned and under what conditions. The Director, OPS, will determine which systems require the decommissioning process. Commissioning and decommissioning plans will be approved by the Director, OPS.

   4.3. The Field Systems Operations Center within OPS is responsible for coordinating all activities associated with the commissioning of major systems and the decommissioning

of legacy systems, including following government-wide regulations regarding asset disposal (e.g., safety, environmental, General Services Administration).

5. Effectiveness will be measured by comparing the projected schedule against the actual date when a system is commissioned, or legacy system decommissioned, at the NWS site.
6. This policy directive is supported by the references and glossary of terms listed in Attachment 1.

Signed April 14, 2010

John L. Hayes Date
Assistant Administrator
for Weather Services

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

NWS Instruction 80-201, System Commissioning Process

NWS Instruction 80-202, System Decommissioning Policy

Terms

Legacy System - A centrally supported major system currently fielded and commissioned, which may be replaced in total by a new technology. Examples include, but are not limited to, Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS), Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD), Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS), Microcomputer-based Automated Radio Theodolite (MicroART), and NOAA Weather Radio Console Replacement System (CRS).

System Decommissioning - The removal of a legacy system from official use.

Major System - The totality of equipment, facilities, and supporting functions (e.g., training, maintenance, logistics, and communication networks) required to provide operational capabilities. Examples include: ASOS, NEXRAD, AWIPS, Radiosonde Replacement System, Consolidated Internet Farms (CIF), and NOAA Weather Radio Processing Systems.

NWS site - A location containing the NWS system(s). Sites may or may not be staffed.

System Commissioning - The process of applying technical and administrative judgments quantitatively and qualitatively to:

a. Determine when a major system at an NWS site can be used in the conduct of NWS operations in its fullest sense, i.e., critical evaluation criteria have been met.

b. Evaluate the effectiveness of system support functions. An example of a support function is logistical support at the NWS depot.

When a surface weather observation system is commissioned, for example, its products are deemed acceptable for official use. A system can be used in the conduct of field operations for familiarization and training purposes before it is commissioned.