In summary:

1. A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns affecting the weather services provided in the New Orleans service area is included as attachment A. As discussed below, I find that providing services which address these factors and concerns from the New Orleans/Baton Rouge Weather Service Forecast Office will not degrade these services.

2. A list of services currently provided within the New Orleans service area from the old New Orleans site and services to be provided from the new New Orleans/Baton Rouge location after consolidation is included in attachment B. Comparison of these services shows all current services provided will continue after the proposed consolidation. The enclosed map shows the old New Orleans Area of Responsibility and the new New Orleans/Baton Rouge Area of Responsibility. As noted below, I find that there will be no degradation in the quality of these services as a result of the consolidation.

- 3. A description of the recent or expected modernization of National Weather Service operations which enhance services in the New Orleans service area is included as attachment C. The new and improved technology inclusive of ASOS, WSR–88D, and AWIPS, etc. has or will be installed and will enhance services.
- 4. A map showing planned NEXRAD coverage at an elevation of 10,000 feet over Louisiana and parts of Mississippi is included as attachment D. National Weather Service operational radar coverage for the specific area will be increased and no area will be under-represented or missed due to inappropriate coverage.

5. The following evidence, based on operational demonstration of the modernized National Weather Service operations, played a key role in concluding there will be no

degradation of service.

- Ă. The WSR-88D RADAR Commissioning Report, attachment E, validates that the WSR-88D meets technical specifications and acceptance test; is fully operational (satisfactory operation in system interfaces and satisfactory support of associated National Weather Service forecasting and warning services); a full set of backup capabilities are functioning properly; a full set of operations and maintenance documentation is available; spare parts, test equipment, and trained operations and maintenance personnel are available on site. Base level training is in place and ongoing training continues. National Workarounds remain in effect.
- B. The User Confirmation of Services, attachment F, documents one negative comment was received. The negative comment was addressed and answered to the satisfaction of the user as stated in the Service Confirmation Report.
- C. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, attachment G, verifies the existing New Orleans WSR–57 radar is no longer needed to support services or products for local office operations.
- 6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the New Orleans/Baton Rouge service area is included as attachment H.

I have considered recommendations of the Modernization Transition Committee

(Attachment I) and the public comments received during the comment period (Attachment J). On ______, the Committee voted to endorse the proposed consolidation (Attachment K). I believe all negative comments have been addressed to the satisfaction of our customers and I continue to recommend this certification.

I, Harry S. Hassel, Director, Southern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

Harry S. Hassel

Endorsement

Date

Attachments

Memorandum for: Harry S. Hassel, Director, Southern Region

From: Dennis H. McCarthy, MIC, NWSFO Norman, OK

Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation Certification

A change of operations occurred at the Oklahoma City Weather Service Forecast Office (WSFO) in 1987 when most of the personnel were transferred to the facility for the future Oklahoma City Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Norman for operation of the WSR–88D and assumption of forecast and warning responsibility for the Oklahoma City service area. The office at the original WSFO location was designated a Residual Weather Service Office (RWSO) and continued to be the site for recording surface observations and operating the WSR–57 radar.

Based on the attached documentation, I have determined that, in my professional judgment, consolidation of the Oklahoma City Residual Weather Service Office (RWSO) with the future Oklahoma City Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Norman will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Oklahoma City area. This proposed certification is in accordance with the advance notification provided in the National Implementation Plan. Accordingly, I am recommending that you approve this action in accordance with section 706 of Public Law 102-567. If you concur, please endorse this recommendation and forward this package to the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services for final certification. If Dr. Friday approves, he will forward the certification to the Secretary for approval and transmittal to

My recommendation is based on my review of the pertinent evidence and application of the modernization criteria for consolidation of a field office. In summary:

- 1. A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns affecting the weather services provided in the Oklahoma City service area is included as attachment A. As discussed below, I find that providing the services which address these characteristics and concerns from the Oklahoma City WFO will not degrade these services.
- 2. A detailed list of services traditionally provided within the Oklahoma City service area from the Oklahoma City RWSO location and a list of services to be provided from the Oklahoma City WFO location at Norman after consolidation is included in attachment B. It

- should be noted that virtually all public services and forecast and warning services were moved to the future WFO site in Norman between 1987 and 1992 as part of a national modernization risk reduction activity. Comparison of these services shows that all services will continue to be provided after the proposed consolidation. Also, the enclosed map shows the RWSO area of responsibility (i.e. "affected service area") and the future WFO Oklahoma City area of responsibility. As discussed below, I find that there will be no degradation in the quality of these services as a result of the consolidation.
- 3. A description of the recent or expected modernization of National Weather Service (NWS) operations which will enhance services in the RWSO Oklahoma City service area is included as attachment C. The new technology (i.e. ASOS, WSR–88D, and AWIPS) has or will be installed and will enhance services.
- 4. A map showing NEXRAD coverage at an elevation of ten thousand feet for Oklahoma and portions of surrounding areas is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the specific service area will be increased and no area will be missed in coverage.
- 5. The following evidence, based on operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, played a key role in concluding there will be no degradation in service.
- A. The WSR–88D Radar Commissioning Report, attachment E, validates that the WSR–88D meets technical specifications (acceptance test); is fully operational (satisfactory operation of system interfaces and satisfactory support of associated NWS forecasting and warning services); service backup capabilities are functioning properly; a full set of spare parts and test equipment and trained operations and maintenance personnel are available on site. Training was completed, but two national work-arounds remain in effect.
- B. The User Confirmation of Services, attachment F, documents that only three negative comments were received. All of those have been answered to the satisfaction of the commentors as stated in the Service Confirmation Report.
- C. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, attachment G, verifies that the existing Oklahoma City WSR–57 radar is no longer needed to support services or products for local office operations.
- 6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Oklahoma City service area is included as attachment H.

I have considered recommendations of the Modernization Transition committee (Attachment I) and the public comments received during the comment period (Attachment J). On _______, the Committee voted to endorse the proposed consolidation (Attachment K). I believe all negative comments have been addressed to the satisfaction of our customers and I continue to recommend this certification.

Endorsement

I, Harry S. Hassel, Director, Southern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.