

would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(6) evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernization NWS operations, which was considered in reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Report(s) User Confirmation of Services Report(s), and the Decommissioning Readiness Report (as applicable); and

(7) a letter appointing the liaison officer.

These proposed certifications do not include any report of the Committee which could be submitted in accordance with sections 706(b)(6) and 707(c) of Pub. Law 102-567. At its December 14, 1995 meeting the Committee concluded that the information presented did not reveal any potential degradation of service and decided not to issue a report.

Documentation supporting the proposed certifications is too voluminous to publish in its entirety. Copies of the supporting documentation can be obtained through the contact listed above.

Attached to this Notice are draft memoranda by the respective meteorologists-in-charge recommending the certifications.

Once all public comments have been received and considered, the NWS will complete consultation with the Committee and determine whether to proceed with the final certifications. If decisions to certify are made, the Secretary of Commerce must publish the final certifications in the FR and transmit the certifications to the appropriate Congressional committees prior to consolidating the offices.

Dated: December 15, 1995.

Louis J. Boezi,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Modernization.

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service

175 Brookhaven Avenue, Building NWS-1, Upton, NY 11973

Memorandum For: W/ER—John T. Forsing
From:

Michael E. Wyllie, AM/MIC NWSFO New York City

Chet Henriksen, AM/MIC NWSFO Philadelphia, PA

Peter Ahnert, MIC NWSO Binghamton, NY

Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation Certification

After reviewing the attached documentation, I have determined, in my

professional judgement, consolidation of the Residual New York City Weather Service Office (RWSO) with the future New York City and Philadelphia Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the New York City service area. This proposed certification is in accordance with the advance notification provided in the National Implementation Plan. Accordingly, I am recommending 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 Congress.

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 New York 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 future New York City and Philadelphia WFOs will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the New York City service area from the Residual New York City WSO location and a list of services to be provided from the future New York City and Philadelphia WFO locations after the proposed consolidation is included as attachment B. Comparison of these services shows that all services currently provided will continue to be provided after the proposed consolidation. Also, the enclosed map shows the RWSO New York City Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area") and the future WFO New York 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 New York 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 planned NEXRAD coverage at an elevation of 10,000 feet for New York and portions of surrounding areas is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the New York City service area will be increased and no area will be missed in coverage.

5. The following evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, played a key role in concluding there will be no degradation of service:

A. The WSR-88D RADAR Commissioning Reports from New York City, Philadelphia and Binghamton, attachment E validate that the WSR-88Ds meet technical specifications (acceptance test); are 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 operations and maintenance documentation is available; and 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. Note: Binghamton, NY is used as a backup but no Residual New York City services were transferred to Binghamton.

B. The User Confirmation of Services from New York City, Philadelphia and Binghamton, attachment F, document that three negative comments were received from New York City, Philadelphia and Binghamton related to the RWSO New York City service area. All negative comments have been answered to the satisfaction of the users as reflected in the reports.

C. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, attachment G, verifies that the existing New York 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 New York City service area is included at 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, John T. Forsing, Director, Eastern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

John T. Forsing

Date

Attachments

October 3, 1995.

Memorandum For: W/ER—John T. Forsing
From: Robert M. Thompson, NWSFO Boston
AM/MIC

Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation Certification

After reviewing the attached documentation, I have determined, in my professional judgment, consolidation of the Providence Weather Service Office (WSO) with the future Boston Weather Forecast Office (WFO) located in Taunton, MA, will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Providence service area. This proposed certification is in accordance with the advance notification provided in the National Implementation Plan. Accordingly, I am recommending 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 Congress.

My recommendation is based on my review of the pertinent evidence and