



PACIFIC REGION TECHNICAL NOTES

81-023

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THE PACIFIC WEATHER CENTRE SATELLITE PROGRAM

OCTOBER 1, 1981

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INTRODUCTION

The Satellite Program at PWC continued to mature throughout 1981. The products and services of the satellite desk are now part of the operational forecast program. This PRTN describes the status of the program effective October 1, 1981.

STAFFING

The satellite group now consists of four Operational Satellite Meteorologist positions and one Satellite Development Meteorologist. The approval has been obtained for two more operational positions and staffing action is already underway.

BASIC OPERATIONAL PROGRAM

The basic operational program now includes a tentative 24 hour operation. Each package of satellite products is issued every six hours on or after the main synoptic hour T_0 in the following sequence:

Satellite AIDS update
Cloud Analysis Chart, valid T_0 , issued at $(T_0 + 2)$
Cloud Prognosis Chart, valid $(T_0 + 12)$, issued at $(T_0 + 2)$
Satellite Interpretation Message, valid (T_0) , issued at $(T_0 + 3)$
Satellite Analysis Chart, valid T_0 , issued at $(T_0 + 3)$

For a description of these products, refer to PRTN 80-033.

OTHER PROGRAMS

The other programs are:

- (1) The Pacific Upper Air Analysis Prognosis
(PUPA Program). The PUPA routines are done twice daily with fields valid at 00Z and 12Z. Refer to PRTN 81-018.
- (2) The Satellite Fire Weather Message
This routine is done twice daily during the Fire Weather Season. Refer to PRTN 80-008.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

(1) Expansion of Cloud Analysis Chart and Cloud Prognosis Chart

The above programs will be expanded to include such fields as icing in cloud and cloud top heights and bottoms.

(2) Expansion of the Satellite AIDS Program

After the arrival of the prototype Vancouver Receiving Station, four series of images will be received hourly. This will allow the production of as many as four video loops. As many as possible will be produced.

REMARKS

The continued advancement of the satellite program depends mainly on the arrival of the full capability Vancouver GOES station.

ACRONYMS

PRTN - Pacific Region Technical Notes.