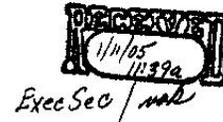


6324 Anneliese Dr
Falls Church, VA 22044-1621
January 3, 2005

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
NOAA Section 515 Officer
NOAA Executive Secretariat
Herbert C. Hoover Building – Room 5230
14th and Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230-0001



Dear NOAA:

I am submitting a request for NOAA to include the time that the forecast is prepared or the time of the observations used to make the forecast (e.g. by saying something like the 8:15 am local forecast or "this forecast was prepared or updated at 8:15 am") on its local Washington DC and Baltimore voice recorded weather forecasts. Since this deals with data quality, I am also going to try a new system to make this request by submitting it under Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554).

a. Requester's name, current home or business address, and telephone number or electronic mail address: Mark Doehnert, 6324 Anneliese Dr, Falls Church, VA 22044-1621 (703) 607-6294 (w)

b. The request for correction of information is submitted under Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

c. The request pertains to the Washington DC and Baltimore, MD local weather forecasts obtained by calling (703) 260-0307 and pressing 1 – 1. This is a recurring problem, as I find the problem whenever I call. The point and form of dissemination is telephone call to a voice-recorded weather forecast. The NOAA office is the Weather Service.

d. How I am affected by not being provided with the time the forecast is prepared: Time of forecast is critical to understand the quality of the forecast. For example, I have heard at least one forecast at an odd hour, such as early on a Sunday morning, that seemed to still be from the night before, as it started with when the sun would set that evening, but the sun was still down. Today, January 3, 2005, when I called in at 9:44 am, it said the sun would rise today at 7:27 am, showing that the forecast on January 3 was at least over two hours old. Weather forecast conditions can change quickly, especially when weather is variable. When it is important to know the time of the forecast, such as to determine whether to close schools, it is critical to know how old the forecast is.

e. Specific statement of how the information at issue fails to comply with applicable guidelines and why the requester believes that the information is not correct: It is hard to envision any weather forecast guidelines that would not include the time of the forecast.

A forecast with out the time or a forecast with data that can be two or more hours old is of significantly lower value than an up-to-date forecast. Time is essential for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of weather forecast information disseminated by NOAA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Doehnert', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Doehnert