

NEXRAD PROGRAM COUNCIL CHARTER

1. INTRODUCTION

The NEXRAD Program Council (NPC) oversaw the development, deployment, and initial operation of the Tri-Agency Weather Surveillance Radar 1988 Doppler (WSR-88D). It was formed in the early 1980s and suspended in 1997 with the understanding that it could be reactivated if necessary. Since that time, the program has been managed by the tri-agency NEXRAD Program Management Committee (NPMC).

In 2016 the National Weather Service (NWS) Director asked the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) to convene a meeting of the NPC, effectively reactivating the Council.

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The WSR-88D is a mature network of dual polarized Doppler radars providing high quality data covering much of the continental United States and Hawaii, some of Alaska, and other U.S. possession and overseas locations. As the radars have aged and agency missions have evolved over the past 25-30 years, issues regarding the future of the radars and the arrangement under which they are maintained and operated have arisen. The NPC will

- a. Provide an executive level forum for discussion of the broader concepts, issue, ideas, and initiatives related to the future of the WSR-88D system.
- b. Promote a common understanding of health and status of the WSR-88D network.
- c. Consider opportunities to coordinate messaging to present unified positions to decision makers regarding the current and future support for the system.
- d. Address specific issues regarding the maintenance and operation of the WSR-88D radars to ensure high-quality, cost-effective support to the America people and to military operations.
- e. Address strategic issues that arisen in the context of evolving missions and responsibilities.
- f. Serve as the “Agency Executive level” for the NPMC management.

3. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

The NPC will comprise one senior executive each from the National Weather Service, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DoD). These members are the official spokespersons for their agencies on matters such as program scope, requirements, resource commitments, and support to the Council. The members are the approval signatory to any interagency plans and agreements developed in the course of council business.

Members will convey their agencies’ decisions and commitments to the Council. The Council will identify and provide appropriate resources to support its activities and provide policy guidance for those activities in a timely manner. The Council may establish focus teams or Joint

Action Groups within the federal meteorological coordinating infrastructure as needed to address issues of interest.

4. RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Member agencies are solely responsible, as appropriate, for planning, programming, and budgeting their own resources, to include funds and manpower, to meet agency obligations for NPC activities. Actions of the NPC are directive on a particular member agency only to the extent that that particular agency accepts responsibility for completing the action.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- a. The NPC membership shall be as follows:
 - FAA Director of Enterprise Services (PMO) (DOT)
 - NOAA Assistant Administrator for Weather Services (DOC)
 - Air Force Director of Weather (DoD)
- b. Members will rotate through service as Chair for a one year term, unless extended by Council agreement. The Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (Federal Coordinator) will arrange meetings in collaboration with the members and facilitate discussions at the meetings.
- c. OFCM will provide an executive secretary to support the council.
- d. Each member may designate an executive agent or alternate to act on behalf of the member to receive and answer routine correspondence in accordance with the authority delegated by the member.
- e. Decisions by the Council will be on the basis of consensus among the members. A member may reserve taking a position on any matter pending agency clearance or instructions. Decisions may be reached in formal meetings, by telephone conference, or by individual approval of documents (including e-mail) circulated to all members.
- f. The Council will meet at the request of one or more of the members. Attendance will be limited to members and staff, the Federal Coordinator, and the executive secretary. Other participants may be invited with the concurrence of all members to brief or provide subject matter expertise.
- g. Notification of meetings will normally be made to members of the Council 30 days in advance of a meeting. Agendas will be provided as soon as possible after the announcement, but normally no less than a week prior to a meeting.
- h. The Executive Secretary will distribute action items from meetings for comment within five working days after the meeting. The agency's comments are requested within ten working days of receiving the action items. Once all comments are received, the Executive Secretary will prepare a brief Record of Actions, highlighting the primary topics and issues (including action items), and will distribute the Record of Actions to Council members within a month after the meeting.
- i. This charter shall remain in force until superseded by a revised charter that has been

coordinated with all member agencies, or until the NPC suspends or terminates activities.

6. TERMINATION

The NPC may terminate its activities when deemed appropriate or suspend activities for a specific or indefinite length of time.

Malcolm Andrews
Federal Aviation Administration Director of Enterprise Services

Date

Ralph O. Stoffler
U.S. Air Force Director of Weather

Date

Louis W. Uccellini
NOAA Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

Date