

Contact: Stephanie Kenitzer
American Meteorological Society
(425) 432-2192



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**AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY TO HOST
NATIONAL LIVE WEBCAST ON PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP POLICY**

The American Meteorological Society will host a national live Webcast on Wednesday, 14 April 2004, to discuss the National Weather Service's proposed policy on partnerships in the provision on weather, water, climate and related environmental information.

The live Webcast will take place on 14 April 2004 from 1-4 p.m. Eastern Time. Participation is open to all parties in the atmospheric science community that wish to comment on the NWS proposed policy. There is no charge for the Webcast, however, participants are encouraged to register in advance to receive background materials and further updates on the Webcast. Registration is available on the AMS Web site at www.ametsoc.org

Participants are also encouraged to submit questions about the proposed policy in advance via email to QuestionsToPanel@ametsoc.org. The questions sent prior to the event will help set the agenda for the Webcast. Questions can also be submitted in real time during the Webcast via the same email address. The Webcast will be provided in MS Media Player and RealPlayer format.

The Webcast will center around a panel discussion featuring members of the AMS Ad Hoc Committee on the Weather and Climate Enterprise. Panelists will include Dr. Elbert (Joe) Friday, AMS Past President; Dr. Susan Avery, CIRES, University of Colorado and AMS President; Dr. Edward Johnson, Strategic Planning and Policy Office, National Weather Service; Mr. Steven Root, President & CEO of WeatherBank and Chair of the Commercial Weather Services Association; Mr. Matthew Parker, with Westinghouse Savannah River Company and National Council of Industrial Meteorologists; and Mr. John Toohey-Morales, of NBC Telemundo and AMS Commissioner on Professional Affairs.

The Webcast is designed to provide a public forum for comment on the proposed NWS policy governing the agency's interactions and cooperation with the greater consortium of public,

private and academic weather and climate institutions, according to the AMS. The overall goal is to educate participants on the policy and encourage wider community input regarding a key federal policy.

The NWS proposed policy is in response to a 2003 the National Research Council report, entitled *Fair Weather – Effective Partnerships in Weather and Climate Services*, which called on the agency to update its existing public-private partnership. The NWS moved forward with this recommendation and published the proposed policy in January 2004. The policy is currently open for public comment through May 2004 on the NWS Web site at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/fairweather/>

The NRC report also encouraged all parties involved in weather and climate services to seek a neutral host, such as the American Meteorological Society, to provide a venue for discussions and dialogue related to public-private partnership. This Webcast is the first step in such an ongoing dialogue.

Participants are encouraged to become familiar with the NWS policy and various background materials that may be useful to help understand the issues. The materials are available on the AMS Web site at www.ametsoc.org or can be found directly via the following links.

National Weather Service and related materials

Proposed NOAA/NWS policy:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/fairweather/>

Current (1991) Policy Statement on the Weather Service/Private Sector Roles:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/im/fedreg.htm>

Existing NWS partnership policy:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/im/a06toc.htm>

National Weather Service Organic Act:

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/15/313.html>

OMB Circular A-130 (Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies):

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a130/a130trans4.html>

Other references

Current (1999) AMS Policy Statement on public-private partnership:

<http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/pubprivpartner.html>

NRC (2002) report **Fair Weather**:

<http://books.nap.edu/catalog/10610.html>

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