File formats for HPC's guidance

All of HPC's guidance is located on our anonymous ftp server and can be accessed via the following link ftp://ftp.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/tnqpfs/ At this page, you will see directories for each day from April 28 – May 2. Each directory contains the forecasts issued at 00Z and 12Z on the given day. Each day contains directories to access the different forecast products

Specific formats

6-Hour QPFs – in directory "qpf_6hr" and created for Days 1-3

Generic Format – "fill_9*x*ewbg_***yyyymmddcc***.gif" where
   x – character denoting the forecast projection
   yyyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

Example: **fill_92ewbg_2010042800.gif.**
This is the 6-hour forecast issued at 00Z April 28, 2010, and valid from 00Z April 28 through 06Z April 28 (the first valid forecast period of this issuance). The following table describes the character code associated with each forecast projection:

Product	Associated Forecast Day	Valid time
92e	Day 1/1st 6-hour period	0-6 hours from issuance time
93e	Day 1/2nd 6-hour period	6-12 hours from issuance time
9ee	Day 1/3rd 6-hour period	12-18 hours from issuance time
9fe	Day 1/4th 6-hour period	18-24 hours from issuance time
9ge	Day 2/1st 6-hour period	24-30 hours from issuance time
9he	Day 2/2nd 6-hour period	30-36 hours from issuance time
9ie	Day 2/3rd 6-hour period	36-42 hours from issuance time
9je	Day 2/4th 6-hour period	42-48 hours from issuance time
9ke	Day 3/1st 6-hour period	48-54 hours from issuance time
9le	Day 3/2nd 6-hour period	54-60 hours from issuance time
9oe	Day 3/3rd 6-hour period	60-66 hours from issuance time
9ne	Day 3/4th 6-hour period	66-72 hours from issuance time

12-hour QPFs – in directory "qpf_12hr" and created for Days 1-3

Generic Format – "hpcqpf_***yyyymmddcc*_12hr_f0*hh***.gif" where
    yyyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.
    hh – forecast hour projection from the initial time

Example**: hpcqpf_2010042812_12hr_f036.gif.**
This is the 12-hour QPF issued at 12Z April 28, 2010 and valid from 24-36 hours after issuance time (in this case, it would be valid from 12Z April 29, 2010 through 00Z April 30, 2010.

24-hour QPFs

In the directory "qpf_24hr" and created for Days 1-3

Generic Format – "fill_9***x*qwbg_*yyyymmddcc***.gif" where
    x – character denoting the forecast projection
    yyyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

Example: **fill_94qwbg_2010042800.gif.**
This is the Day 1 24-hour forecast issued at 00Z April 28, 2010, and valid from 00Z April 28 through 00Z April 29. The following table describes the character code associated with each forecast projection:

Product	Associated Forecast Day	Valid time
94q	Day 1	0-24 hours from issuance time
98q	Day 2	24-48 hours from issuance time
99q	Day 3	48-72 hours from issuance time

48, 72, and 120-hour QPFs

In directory "qpf_other"

Day 1-2 48-hour QPF format – "**d12*ddcc_yyyymmddcc***.gif" where
     ddcc- the initial day and cycle of the forecast
     yyyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

     Example: d122812_2010042812.gif.
     This is the Day 1-2 48-hour QPF issued at 12Z April 28, 2010 and valid for the
     period 12Z April 28 through 12Z April 30.

Day 1-3 72-hour QPF format – "**d13*ddcc_yyyymmddcc***.gif" where
     ddcc- the initial day and cycle of the forecast
     yyyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

     Example:
     d132812_2010042812.gif. This is the Day 1-3 72-hour QPF issued at 12Z April
     28, 2010 and valid for the period 12Z April 28 through 12Z May 1, 2010.

Day 4-5 48-hour QPF format – "**95ep48i_*yyyymmddcc***.gif" where
     yyyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

     Example:
     95ep48i_2010042812.gif. The Day 4-5 48-hour QPF issued at 12Z April 28,
     2010 and valid for the period 12Z May 1-12Z May 3, 2010.

Day 1-5 120-hour QPF format – "**p120i_ *yyyymmddcc*_fill.gif**" where
     yyyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

     Example:
     p120i_2010042812_fill.gif. This is the Day 1-5 120-hour QPF issued at 12Z
     April 28, 2010 and valid for the period 12Z April 28 through 12Z May 3, 2010.

Excessive Rainfall Forecasts

In directory "excessiverain"

Generic Format – "9*x*e_*yyyymmddcc*.gif" where
   x – character denoting the forecast projection
   yyyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle.

There is some variability to the valid periods of the Day 1 products, depending on the issuance cycle.

Example: **94e_2010042803.gif**.
This is the Day 1 Excessive Rainfall outlook issued at 03Z April 28, 2010 and valid from 03Z April 28 through 00Z April 29. The following table describes the character code associated with each forecast projection, and details about the differing valid periods for Day 1 products:

Product	Cycle	Forecast Day	Valid period
94e	03	Day 1	0-21 hours from issuance time
	06	Day 1	6-30 hours from issuance time
	15	Day 1	0-27 hours from issuance time
	18	Day 1-2	0-30 hours from issuance time
98e	00	Day 2	24-48 hours from issuance time
	12	Day 2	24-48 hours from issuance time
99e	00	Day 3	48-72 hours from issuance time
	12	Day 3	48-72 hours from issuance time

Probabilistic QPFs - Confidence Interval forecasts

In the directory "qpf_confidenceinterval" and created for forecast projections 6-60 hours

Generic Format – "**ci*yyyymmddccfhhh*.gif**" where
   yyyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle
   fhhh – the forecast hour projection from the initial time.

Example: **ci2010042900f018.gif**
This is the 6-panel graphic displaying 6-hour QPFs and QPF confidence intervals for the period of 18Z April 29, 2010 – 00Z April 30, 2010. Product was issued at 00Z April 29, 2010.

Probabilistic QPFs - Precipitation Amounts by Percentile

In the directory "new_pqpf" and created for Days 1-3

Generic Format – "p06i_*xx*prcntil_*yyyymmddccfhhh*.gif" where
    yyyymmddcc – the year/month/day and initial forecast cycle
    fhhh – the forecast hour projection from the initial time.
    xx – represents the percentile. This value (05,10,25,50,75,90, or 95) is the percent
        chance that the 6-hour precipitation will be less than the depicted amount.
        From the opposite perspective, the value 100 minus the percentile is the
        percent chance that precipitation will exceed the depicted amount.

Example: **p06i_90prcntil_2010042900f018.gif**
This displays the 6-hour QPF in which there is a 90% chance that the observed amount will be less than that depicted for the 6-hour period of 18Z April 29, 2010 – 00Z April 30, 2010. Product was issued at 00Z April 29, 2010. Conversely, there is a 10% chance that the observed amount will be greater than that depicted.

All HPC Discussions

In the directory "discussions"

File formats:
QPF discussions **– KWBCQPFPFD_*yyyymmdd_hhmmss*** where
    yyyymmdd is the year/month day the discussion is issued
    hhmmss is the hour/minute/second (UTC) the discussion is issued.
Excessive rainfall discussions **– KWBCQPFERD_*yyyymmdd_hhmmss*** where
    yyyymmdd is the year/month day the discussion is issued
    hhmmss is the hour/minute/second (UTC) the discussion is issued.

There are 2 QPF discussions per day. The earlier of the two will have yesterday's time stamp in the file name as the discussion was completed at the end of the previous day. However, this is the final discussion for Day 1-3 forecasts beginning at 00Z of the current day.

Excessive rainfall discussions are issued when excessive rainfall forecasts are created. They should generally be issued around 03, 06, 15, and 18Z and are only valid for the day 1 forecasts.

Significant River Flood Outlook

In directory "sig_flood_outlook"

There is only 1 file per day in each directory.