

16 Apr 2001

From: NOAA Office of System Development (OSD)

To: GVAR Users

Subject: GVAR Format Changes, Notification of

The GOES Variable (GVAR) data transmission format which is used to broadcast meteorological data measured by the independent Imager and Sounder instruments aboard NOAA/NESDIS's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) is being changed. The first change is for the user transparent inclusion of information associated with the Midnight Blackbody Calibration Correction (MBCC) algorithm. Subsequent changes are to accommodate changes to the Imager instrument IR channels on GOES-M/N and again on GOES-O/P/Q. Because of these changes in instrument channels it is no longer possible to have one version of the GVAR format for all GOES spacecraft, therefore, several versions of the format will be in use at the same time in the future. The "Version Number" field, which already exists in the GVAR block header, but has always been set to zero, will be used to identify the GVAR version, the values are:

Ver #	Spacecraft Supported	Change in relation to Ver #0	Operational Date
0	GOES I thru L	Not applicable	Current version
1	GOES I thru L	MBCC information added (transparent to users)	May 2001
Change in relation to Ver #1			
2	GOES M thru N	Imager IR Channel order	For GOES 12 PLT (2001)
3	GOES O thru Q	Imager IR Channel order Additional detector	For GOES 14 PLT (~2005)

Note that the Version #2 and #3 changes to GVAR outlined above will not be retroactive. Data from GOES-8 through GOES-11 will always be transmitted to users with Version #0 (currently) or with Version #1 beginning May 2001.

A two week period of test broadcasts to GVAR users with Version #2 is planned in early June 2001, actual dates TBD. GOES-M data captured on wideband tape during the GOES-M Thermal Vac test will be transmitted via GOES-9 (while it is brought out of storage to support this and other tests) for a period of 3 to 4 hours daily.

At the NOAA OSD Web site (www.osd.noaa.gov) a specific GVAR page has been set up and key GVAR information consolidated there. Please access the site and register as a GVAR user so you are included on future mailings (e-mail) and have access to GVAR review or download information. Access the file "synopsis" for a detailed explanation of the MBCC and GOES M/N and GOES O/P/Q Imager channel changes. Also provided on the site are files with modified GVAR block descriptions and the file "testsched" which provides the latest test schedule.