

Agreement to
Revise WFO Staffing/Alaska Region WSO Staffing
September 2004

1) Weather Forecast Office Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT)/Meteorologist Intern Units will be staffed with either HMTs or Meteorologist Interns.

All HMT/Interns position vacancies will be simultaneously advertised as GS-1341--1, area of consideration NWS only, NWS status applicants only, and as GS-1340-5/7/9 promotion potential to 11, area of consideration all qualified applicants (status, non-status). The size of the HMT/Intern Unit will remain the same as described in the October 2000 staffing plan. Effective date October 17, 2004.

2) NWS will establish an Observing Program Leader (OPL) position at every WFO. The position will be created using one of the positions in the WFO HMT/Intern Unit. The OPL will be classified as a GS-1341-12, team leader, non-supervisory position, and will be part of the bargaining unit. NWS will begin recruiting for this position beginning October 17, 2004.

a) Current Data Acquisition Program Managers (DAPM) will be offered the opportunity to convert to the OPL position within one year of the implementation of this plan.

b) At those WFOs which do not presently have a DAPM, a vacancy announcement will be issued for the OPL beginning October 17, 2004, but no later than October 25, 2004. The area of consideration will be limited to NWS status applicants in the local commuting area. Consideration will be given to the most senior HMT on station based on total Federal government service. If a selection is not made from this certificate, a vacancy announcement will be issued NWS wide for the OPL only if the HMT/Intern Unit is below the minimum staffing complement of 4 or 5 set forth in the October 2000 staffing plan. If the HMT/Intern Unit is fully staffed, the vacancy announcement will be issued when the first vacancy occurs in the HMT/Intern Unit bringing that WFO below the minimum HMT/Intern Unit staffing complement as set forth in the October 2000 staffing plan. As DAPMs or OPLs retire or leave the WFO for other reasons, the same recruitment process will be conducted.

3) The establishment of the OPL will result in a change to the GS-1341 HMT position Description (PD) under the supervisory control section. GS-1341S HMTs will report to the WFO Meteorologist in Charge when the DAPM position is vacated. In addition, a review of the GS-1341 HMT PD. has resulted in a change of Fair Labor Standards Act classification from exempt to non-exempt. This review confirmed that all other

aspects of the GS-1341 HMT position remain properly classified. NWS will change the GS-1341 HMT PD to reflect a change in supervisory controls and Federal Labor Standards Act status to non-exempt effective October 17, 2004.

4) Meteorological Technicians at all Alaska Region Weather Service Offices (WSO) will be assigned short-term forecasting and other related duties. As a result of this addition of duties, it has been determined that the full performance level of the 33 GS-1341-9 Meteorological Technicians positions in these offices should be reclassified as GS-1341-10. We are in the process of completing the paperwork required to promote to GS-10 those 19 GS-1341-9 Meteorologist Technicians who meet the time in grade requirement. The promotions will be effective October 17, 2004. The other 14 positions will have promotion potential to GS-10. Each of the employees whose position is being upgraded will be required to complete an on-line refresher course within 120 days of the course availability. The course will be available by October 16, 2004.

Agreement reached by the parties on September 28, 2004, by Irwin T. David, NWS CFO, Mickey Brown, NWS Negotiator, Richard J. Hirn, NWSEO Negotiator