

Friends/Partners in
Aviation Weather Forum
NBAA: October 19, 2006

Segment Four –
Progress in Obstructions to Vision
Information

User Needs and Issues

User Panel

- Hooper Harris, AFS-250
- Paul Fiduccia, SAMA

Top Issues

- Regulatory Issues
- Elimination of AWOS Equipment by FAA
- En Route Ceiling & Visibility Forecasts in CONUS and Alaska

Regulatory Issues

- FAR 121.655: Applicability of Reported Weather Minimum
 - Rework to require that surface visibility, and not tower visibility, is controlling for VFR and IFR takeoff and landing minima, and for instrument approach procedures on all runways, when the reported visibility in the main body of the hourly report is less than 4 statute miles.

Elimination of AWOS by FAA

- What are FAA and NWS plans for implementation?

En Route Forecasts of Ceiling & Visibility

- VFR into IMC accidents remain a substantial cause of GA fatalities
- The National C&V program funding and status for CONUS and Alaska?
 - CONUS real-time analysis (diagnosis)?
 - Alaska real-time analysis?
 - Note: Capstone Statewide Expansion, 5,000+ aircraft with FIS capability.
 - Forecasts for CONUS and Alaska?

AFS-250 Comments

- Integration of non-federal automated observation systems into the data network
- Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) use gridded C&V data for the “no-go” decision