

# **HPC Experimental Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands**

## **Part 1 – Mission Connection**

a. Product Description – The Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) is responsible for issuing Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPFs) for the continental U.S. (CONUS) . The NWS Southern Region has requested HPC to issue similar products for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

b. Purpose – These QPFs are provided as guidance forecasts for use by River Forecast Centers (RFCs) and Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs). They are also available to the emergency management community, media, and general public.

c. Audience - The target audience includes NWS forecasters and hydrologists, the academic community, the emergency management community, and anyone interested in rainfall forecasts over Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

d. Presentation Format – The forecasts are presented as graphics on the HPC webpage at the following URL:

[http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/puerto\\_rico\\_qpf.php](http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/puerto_rico_qpf.php)

They are also available as gridded products in GRIB2 format via ftp at the following site:

[ftp://ftp.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/prqpf\\_grib2/.](ftp://ftp.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/prqpf_grib2/)

e. Feedback Method – Comments regarding the QPF for Puerto Rico should be sent to one of our feedback email addresses. Links for these addresses are located on the left-hand menu under “Contact Us”.

Comments may also be provided to:

Edwin Danaher  
5200 Auth Road Suite 410H  
Camp Springs, MD 20746  
(301) 763-8000 ext. 7354  
[Edwin.Danaher@noaa.gov](mailto:Edwin.Danaher@noaa.gov)

## **Part II – Technical Description**

a. Format and Science Basis – Forecasters at the HPC have been issuing QPFs over the CONUS since 1960. All QPFs incorporate the latest surface and upper air analyses, radar data, satellite data, and all available model guidance displayed on N-AWIPS workstations. HPC also works in conjunction with meteorologists in National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service’s (NESDIS's) Synoptic Analysis Branch (SAB) to obtain

information regarding satellite trends, precipitation and moisture availability estimates. This co-location and collaboration between SAB and HPC is known as the National Precipitation Prediction Unit (NPPU). The QPFs for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands will be produced in the same manner as those for the CONUS. Initially, forecasts will be produced once per day and extend out to 48 hours. They may be expanded out to 72 hours and issued twice per day in the future.

b. Product Availability – The QPFs are prepared once daily. They are available by 1400 UTC seven days a week.

c. Additional Information – None.