

Memorandum

To: Distribution, See Below

From: Jen Johnson P.E., CFM, Hydraulic Engineer

Date: September 30, 2024

Subject: NOAA Atlas 14 Publication

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has published updated precipitation data for Montana in NOAA ATLAS 14, VOLUME 12, VERSION 2.0 (2024). The precipitation data is available through the [Precipitation Frequency Data Server - PFDS \[hdsc.nws.noaa.gov\]](https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov).

This precipitation data supersedes the precipitation data published in the MDT Hydraulics Manual Appendix 9B.

Please use the following guidelines to implement and apply the updated precipitation data for hydrology calculations that would have used Appendix 9B.

1. New projects or projects that are before the Plan in Hand Review milestone (PIH) and utilize precipitation data in the design will use the NOAA Atlas 14 precipitation data.
2. For projects that are after PIH or are in-progress design build, CM/GC, or progressive design build, the NOAA Atlas 14 data may be implemented on a case-by-case basis. Please note that:
 - Implementing the updated design criteria on post PIH projects may require design and plan changes.
 - The decision to use the updated design criteria will be made in consultation with the District Hydraulic Engineer and the design project manager.

Please contact Jen Johnson, Annette Compton, Chad Knuth, David McKay, Marc Wotring, or any of the District Hydraulic Engineers, with questions or comments regarding precipitation data.

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Megan Cail – Highways Design Engineer
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