The Nature Conservancy
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September 2, 2015

The Honorable Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sullivan:

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you the review report, "Archiving of the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) R Series Level 0 Data". The Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG) prepared this report and the SAB approved it at its August 2015 meeting.

The question under consideration for this report is whether NOAA should re-examine its decision not to preserve a long-term archival copy of GOES-R Level 0 data, and whether planning for future satellite missions should consider archiving Level 0 data. The current plan is for NOAA to maintain a copy of Level 0 data for at least two years in a rolling first in, first out storage scenario. The purpose of the rolling two-year storage is to support the potential for reprocessing the Level 0 data due to calibration/validation issues determined at a future date. Level 1a data will not be saved; Level 1a only exists as an interim processing artifact. Level 1b data is the current product targeted for long-term archival maintenance.

In this report, the SAB

- Endorses the digital data curation standard practice of archiving the lowest-level satellite data possible for potential future reprocessing, in addition to archiving derived products;
- Encourages NOAA to ensure that all future (after GOES-R) satellite development efforts consider data archiving requirements for both unprocessed data and derived products at the beginning and throughout the development process; and
- Recommends that NOAA utilize the interim period of two to three years before the first round of GOES-R L0 data is slated to be discarded to host a workshop to invite the relevant communities, e.g. scientists and others, to examine in more detail the utility of maintaining a L0 copy of data for the long term. The output of this workshop should influence NOAA's policy regarding the archiving of GOES-R L0 data.

The SAB encourages NOAA to consider incorporating these recommendations into its plans for data archiving for the GOES-R satellite. The SAB respectfully requests a response from NOAA to these recommendations by the Summer 2016 SAB meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lynn Scarlett
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board

Managing Director for Public Policy, The Nature Conservancy

Attachment

cc: Dawn Wright
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Stephen Volz
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