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NOAA UPGRADES SATELLITE
DIVISION, CHANGES NAME

The satellite division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a Commerce Department agency, has been upgraded and renamed the **National Earth Satellite Service (NESS)**.

NOAA Administrator Richard A. Frank said the change reflects new and broader responsibilities for the former **National Environmental Satellite Service**.

He also announced that **David S. Johnson, former director of the service, and Diana H. Josephson, former deputy assistant administrator for policy and planning, have been named assistant administrator (designate) and deputy assistant administrator (designate), for the new NESS.**

Earlier this year NOAA was assigned responsibility for developing and managing a remote sensing satellite system based upon the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's experimental Landsat program.

NOAA and its predecessor agency, the Environmental Science Services Administration, have managed the nation's operational weather satellites since 1965. Imagery and data from these spacecraft have been used broadly for weather forecasting, marine navigation, commercial fishing and water resource management.

The Landsat system, with its greater resolution, is expected to be of value for such monitoring and also provide data for farming, urban planning, mineral exploration and other activities.

Johnson has directed NOAA's satellite activities since they began in 1958, and is considered a pioneer in remote sensing satellite systems and their application. Josephson has been involved in NOAA's planning for a national land remote sensing satellite system since January.

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