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Abstract: Technical Support for the National Climate Assessment

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National Climate Assessments are Congressionally-mandated reports to be produced every four years. The Third National Climate Assessment (NCA3) was released in May 2014. To support development of the NCA3, a technical support unit (TSU) was established at the National Centers for Environmental Information in Asheville. The TSU provided a wide array of support services, including scientific, editorial, metadata, graphical, and web development. While the development of NCA3 was a major effort on the part of many, including the 300+ authors, the TSU played a central role in the behind-the-scenes work needed to finish this widely-praised report. Unlike previous assessments, a sustained assessment process has been established and the TSU is providing support for special assessment products, as well as the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4), the development of which has just started. The TSU currently consists of 16 permanent and part-time staff, most of whom are employed by CICS-NC. This talk will describe the types of support and products provided by the TSU.