

# The Role of Polarimetric, Doppler Velocity, and Spectrum Width Signatures in the Reanalysis of a QLCS Tornado Cluster

Richard Castro, Eric Lenning, Matthew Friedlein – NOAA/NWS, Chicago/Romeoville, IL

Anthony Lyza, Adam W. Clayton, and Kevin R. Knupp – Severe Weather Institute – Radar and Lightning Laboratories, University of Alabama - Huntsville

Brett Borchardt – North Carolina State University - Raleigh



## Event Overview

A pair of derecho-producing quasi-linear convective systems (QLCSs) impacted northern Illinois and northern Indiana from the evening of 30 June to the predawn hours of 1 July 2014.

The second QLCS trailed the first one by only 250 km and approximately three hours, producing 29 confirmed tornadoes (14 in the Kankakee River Valley) and many areas of straight-line winds estimated at 40-50 m s<sup>-1</sup>.

Interaction with a stalled outflow boundary from the first QLCS is believed to be critical to the evolution of the second QLCS.

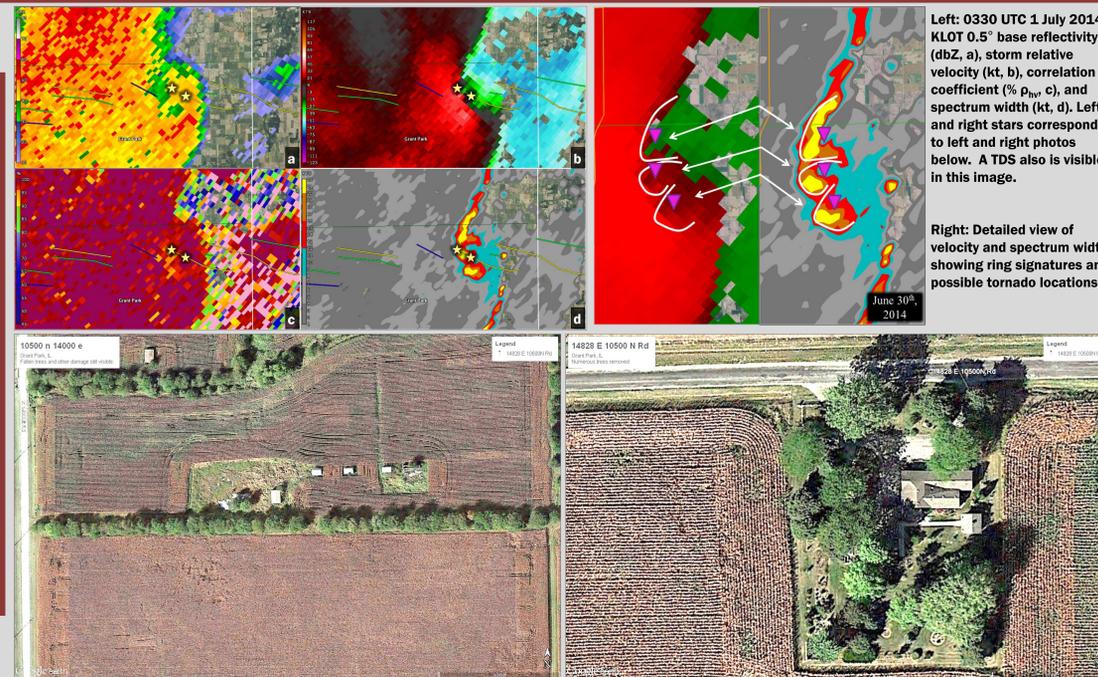
At 0200 UTC on 1 July 2014 this image shows:  
 A—Current leading edge of cold pool from the first line.  
 B—Original southern extent of cold pool from the first line.  
 C—Current position of mesoscale warm front as the cold pool lifts back north.  
 From Lyza et al. 2017

Additional analysis after tornado results were published in Storm Data shed new light on some of the initial findings, prompting further investigation.

## Reanalysis: Motivation and Methodology

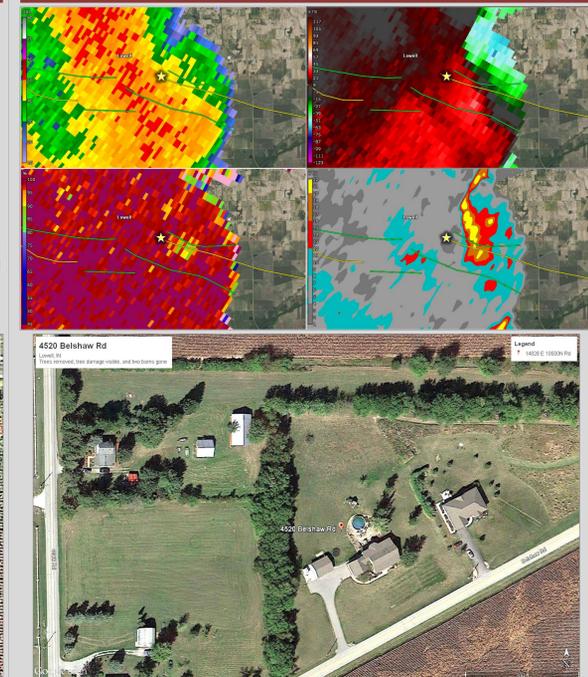
Three independent efforts led to similar conclusions: tracks needed reanalysis.

One study found 'spectrum width rings' associated with known tornadic mesovortices and also where tornadoes had not yet been documented. Another uncovered additional TDS locations. A third utilizing 'before and after' Google Earth imagery from 2013 and 2015 found lingering evidence of damage outside of existing tracks.



The stars annotated on the radar imagery correspond to these two locations of damage found via Google Earth northeast of Grant Park, IL. Toggle between page 1 and page 2 of this document to view 'before and after' comparisons of the four damage photos on the poster.

Reanalysis Methodology



Areas of additional suspected tornadoes (based on spectrum width rings and TDS locations) were examined in post-event Google Earth imagery for evidence of damage. Phone calls also were made to select locations to confirm what was seen in Google Earth.

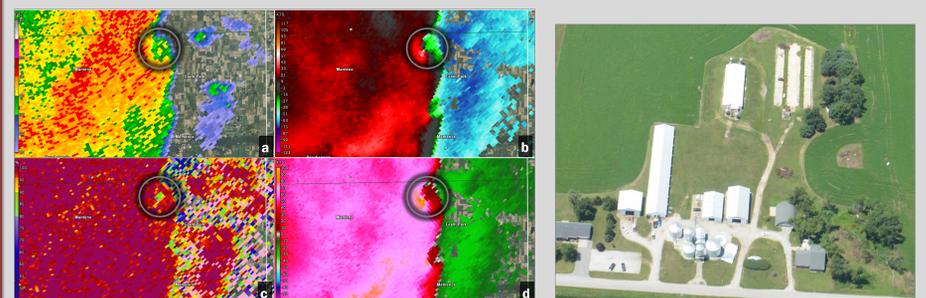
## Official NWS Storm Data Results

Official tornado paths for Storm Data were determined via two ground surveys, an aerial survey, and examination of radar data. But there were shortcomings:

- focused on areas of known/reported/discovered damage – no tornadoes were seen
- aerial survey too late and too limited – debris was cleaned up, crops had recovered
- scope, extent, and evolution of the event were not fully understood



Damage on a farm northwest of Grant Park, IL, near location of TDS in radar imagery. A destroyed barn northeast of Grant Park, IL. Collapsed silo south of Lowell, IN.



0327 UTC 1 July 2014 KLOT 0.5° base reflectivity (dBZ, a), storm relative velocity (kt, b), correlation coefficient (% ρ<sub>hv</sub>, c), and base velocity (kt, d). TDS is annotated.

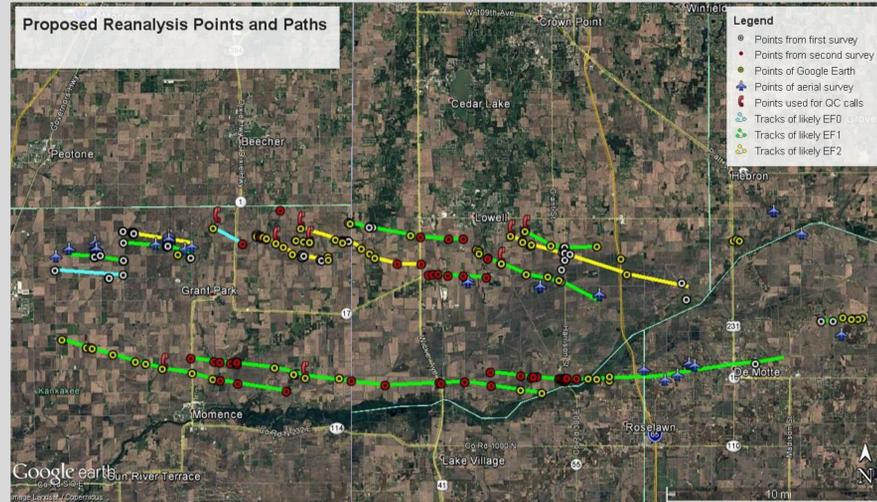


Silo damage on a farm west of Forest City, IN.

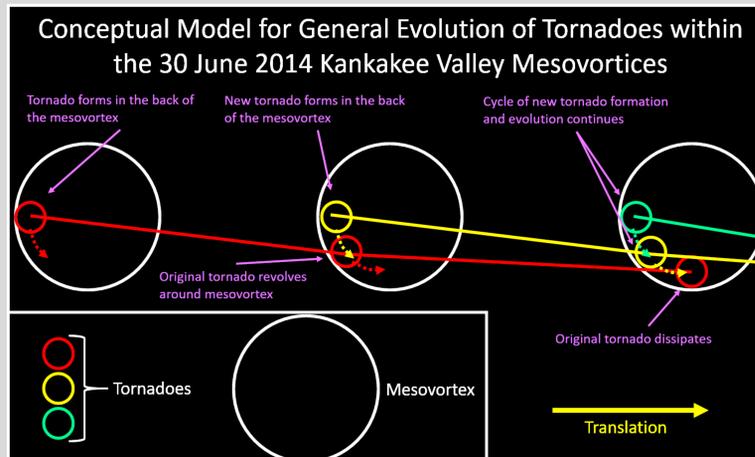


The challenge was to determine the orientation of multiple tornado paths given many closely spaced damage points. Tree damage and a destroyed outbuilding at a farm northwest of Grant Park, IL, near location of TDS annotated in radar imagery.

## Proposed Reanalysis



## Conceptual Model of Tornado Formation on 30 June 2014

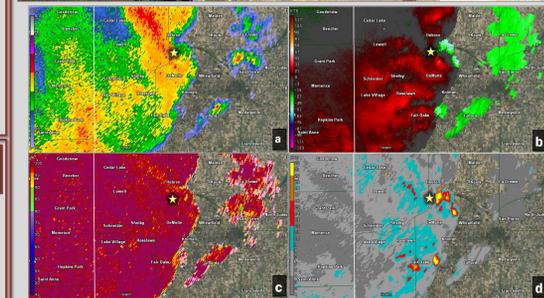


## Conclusions, Future Plans, and Messaging Challenges

Reanalysis was warranted and increased the understanding of this complex event. Work remains!



Top: Extensive area of tree damage and removal south of Hebron, IN. This location corresponds to the star on the radar image below.



Bottom: 0356 UTC 1 July 2014 KLOT 0.5° base reflectivity (dBZ, a), storm relative velocity (kt, b), correlation coefficient (% ρ<sub>hv</sub>, c), and spectrum width (kt, d). Left and right stars correspond to left and right photos below. A possible TDS is visible in this image.

It is possible that damage and other changes found in this and similar locations was not all due to the storms of 30 June 2014. Additional efforts will be made to distinguish June 30<sup>th</sup> damage from changes due to other factors.

- Future plans:
- Finalize reanalysis
  - Document and publish results
  - Update Storm Data?
  - Refine tornadogenesis schematic based on evidence obtained from this analysis

Another challenge: Within NWS warning products, what is the best way to message an event such as this one, with multiple closely spaced tornadoes that are difficult to discern in real-time?

## References

Borchardt, B., E. Lenning, and M. Friedlein, 2016: Operational uses of Spectrum Width to Improve Warnings for Quasi-Linear Convection in the Western Great Lakes. Poster for 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Conference, 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, Amer. Meteor. Soc.

Clayton, A. W., A. W. Lyza, R. Wade, and K. R. Knupp, 2016: An analysis of tornado debris signatures in the 30 June – 1 July 2014 quasi-linear convective system tornado outbreak. Preprints, 28<sup>th</sup> Conference on Severe Local Storms, Portland, OR, Amer. Meteor. Soc.

Friedlein, M., R. Castro, E. Lenning, A. W. Lyza, and K. R. Knupp, 2015: Evolution of the 30 June 2014 Double Derecho Event in Northern Illinois & Northwest Indiana. Preprints, 27<sup>th</sup> Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting/23<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction, Chicago, IL, Amer. Meteor. Soc.

Lyza, A. W., A. W. Clayton, K. R. Knupp, E. Lenning, M. T. Friedlein, R. Castro, and E. S. Bentley, 2017: Analysis of Mesovortex Characteristics, Behavior, and Interactions during the Second 30 June - 1 July 2014 Midwestern Derecho Event. *Electronic J. Severe Storms Meteor.*, 12 (2), 1–33.

NCEI, cited 2017: Storm Data. [Available online at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ips/sd/sd.html>]

# The Role of Polarimetric, Doppler Velocity, and Spectrum Width Signatures in the Reanalysis of a QLCS Tornado Cluster

Richard Castro, Eric Lenning, Matthew Friedlein – NOAA/NWS, Chicago/Romeoville, IL

Anthony Lyza, Adam W. Clayton, and Kevin R. Knupp – Severe Weather Institute – Radar and Lightning Laboratories, University of Alabama - Huntsville

Brett Borchardt – North Carolina State University - Raleigh



## Event Overview

A pair of derecho-producing quasi-linear convective systems (QLCSs) impacted northern Illinois and northern Indiana from the evening of 30 June to the predawn hours of 1 July 2014.

The second QLCS trailed the first one by only 250 km and approximately three hours, producing 29 confirmed tornadoes (14 in the Kankakee River Valley) and many areas of straight-line winds estimated at 40-50 m s<sup>-1</sup>.

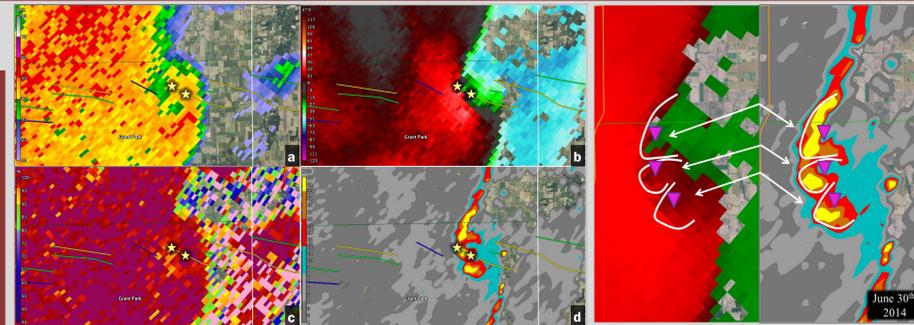
Interaction with a stalled outflow boundary from the first QLCS is believed to be critical to the evolution of the second QLCS.

At 0200 UTC on 1 July 2014 this image shows:  
 A—Current leading edge of cold pool from the first line.  
 B—Original southern extent of cold pool from the first line.  
 C—Current position of mesoscale warm front as the cold pool lifts back north.  
 From Lyza et al. 2017

Additional analysis after tornado results were published in Storm Data shed new light on some of the initial findings, prompting further investigation.

## Reanalysis: Motivation and Methodology

Three independent efforts led to similar conclusions: tracks needed reanalysis.



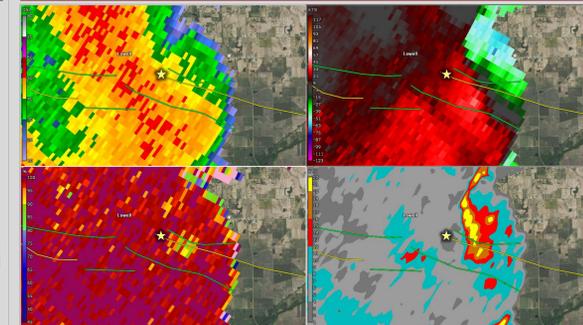
Left: 0330 UTC 1 July 2014 KLOT 0.5° base reflectivity (dBZ, a), storm relative velocity (kt, b), correlation coefficient (% ρ<sub>hv</sub>, c), and spectrum width (kt, d). Left and right stars correspond to left and right photos below. A TDS also is visible in this image.

Right: Detailed view of velocity and spectrum width showing ring signatures and possible tornado locations.



The stars annotated on the radar imagery correspond to these two locations of damage found via Google Earth northeast of Grant Park, IL. Toggle between page 1 and page 2 of this document to view 'before and after' comparisons of the four damage photos on the poster.

Reanalysis Methodology



Areas of additional suspected tornadoes (based on spectrum width rings and TDS locations) were examined in post-event Google Earth imagery for evidence of damage. Phone calls also were made to select locations to confirm what was seen in Google Earth.

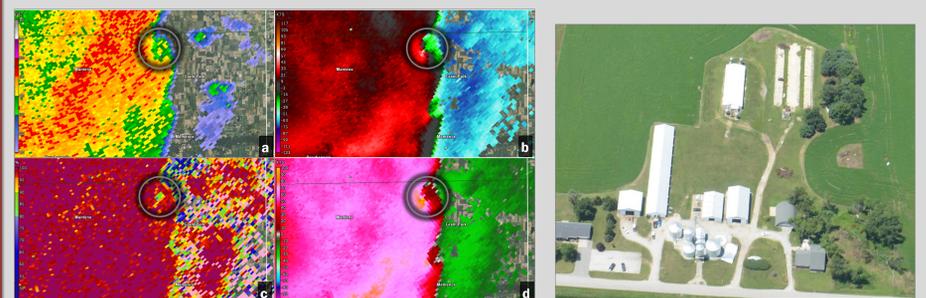
## Official NWS Storm Data Results

Official tornado paths for Storm Data were determined via two ground surveys, an aerial survey, and examination of radar data. But there were shortcomings:

- focused on areas of known/reported/discovered damage – no tornadoes were seen
- aerial survey too late and too limited – debris was cleaned up, crops had recovered
- scope, extent, and evolution of the event were not fully understood



Damage on a farm northwest of Grant Park, IL, near location of TDS in radar imagery. A destroyed barn northeast of Grant Park, IL. Collapsed silo south of Lowell, IN.



0327 UTC 1 July 2014 KLOT 0.5° base reflectivity (dBZ, a), storm relative velocity (kt, b), correlation coefficient (% ρ<sub>hv</sub>, c), and base velocity (kt, d). TDS is annotated.



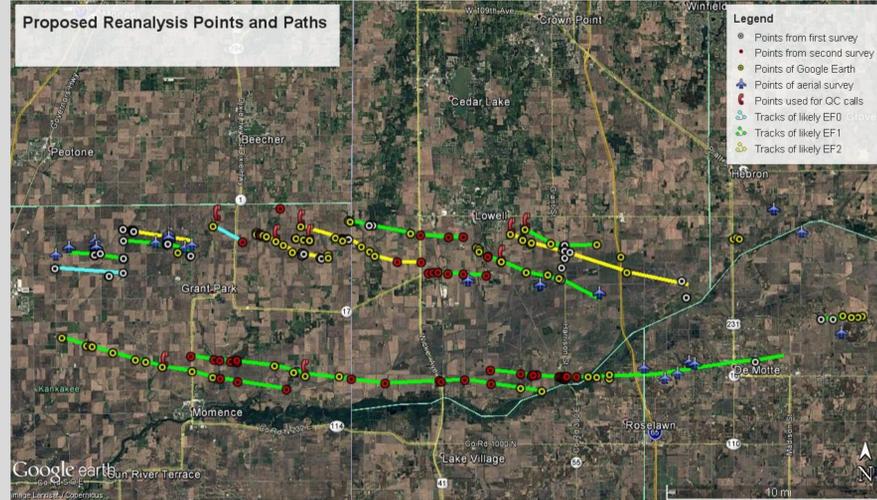
Silo damage on a farm west of Forest City, IN.



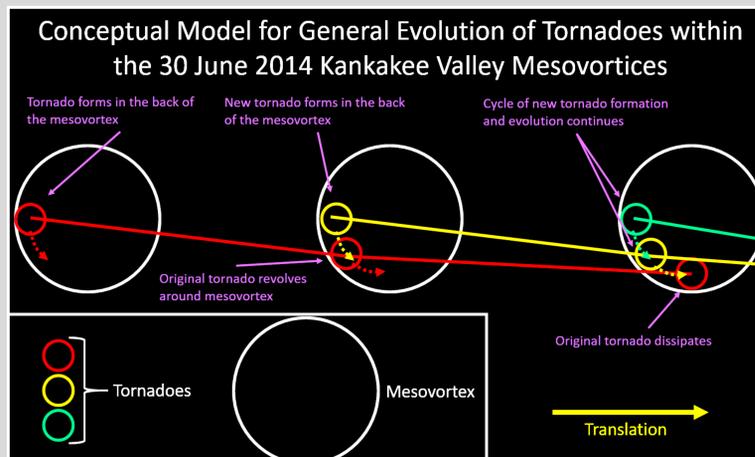
The challenge was to determine the orientation of multiple tornado paths given many closely spaced damage points.

Tree damage and a destroyed outbuilding at a farm northwest of Grant Park, IL, near location of TDS annotated in radar imagery.

## Proposed Reanalysis



## Conceptual Model of Tornado Formation on 30 June 2014

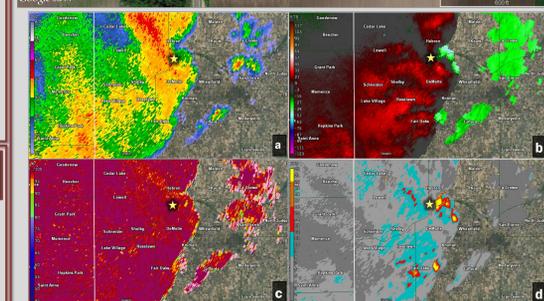


## Conclusions, Future Plans, and Messaging Challenges

Reanalysis was warranted and increased the understanding of this complex event. Work remains!



Top: Extensive area of tree damage and removal south of Hebron, IN. This location corresponds to the star on the radar image below.



Bottom: 0356 UTC 1 July 2014 KLOT 0.5° base reflectivity (dBZ, a), storm relative velocity (kt, b), correlation coefficient (% ρ<sub>hv</sub>, c), and spectrum width (kt, d). Left and right stars correspond to left and right photos below. A possible TDS also is visible in this image. It is possible that damage and other changes found in this and similar locations was not all due to the storms of 30 June 2014. Additional efforts will be made to distinguish June 30<sup>th</sup> damage from changes due to other factors.

- Future plans:
- Finalize reanalysis
  - Document and publish results
  - Update Storm Data?
  - Refine tornadogenesis schematic based on evidence obtained from this analysis

Another challenge: Within NWS warning products, what is the best way to message an event such as this one, with multiple closely spaced tornadoes that are difficult to discern in real-time?

## References

Borchardt, B., E. Lenning, and M. Friedlein, 2016: Operational uses of Spectrum Width to Improve Warnings for Quasi-Linear Convection in the Western Great Lakes. Poster for 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Conference, 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, Amer. Meteor. Soc.

Clayton, A. W., A. W. Lyza, R. Wade, and K. R. Knupp, 2016: An analysis of tornado debris signatures in the 30 June – 1 July 2014 quasi-linear convective system tornado outbreak. Preprints, 28<sup>th</sup> Conference on Severe Local Storms, Portland, OR, Amer. Meteor. Soc.

Friedlein, M., R. Castro, E. Lenning, A. W. Lyza, and K. R. Knupp, 2015: Evolution of the 30 June 2014 Double Derecho Event in Northern Illinois & Northwest Indiana. Preprints, 27<sup>th</sup> Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting/23<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction, Chicago, IL, Amer. Meteor. Soc.

Lyza, A. W., A. W. Clayton, K. R. Knupp, E. Lenning, M. T. Friedlein, R. Castro, and E. S. Bentley, 2017: Analysis of Mesovortex Characteristics, Behavior, and Interactions during the Second 30 June - 1 July 2014 Midwestern Derecho Event. *Electronic J. Severe Storms Meteor.*, 12 (2), 1–33.

NCEI, cited 2017: Storm Data. [Available online at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ips/sd/sd.html>]