

Ice and Freezing Rain Event
January 12th 2020
Update #3

January 10th 2020
2:45 pm

Briefing produced as guidance for emergency management officials.

Hazard Risk Assessment Page

Brief Summary

A complex low pressure system will bring messy weather to the province on Sunday with an extended period of ice pellets and freezing rain expected over a very large area. Snow accumulation in the north and rainfall in the south is also expected on Sunday.

Duration

Worst conditions to last 12 to 18 hours.

Confidence Level

High	
Moderate	X
Low	

Onset Timing

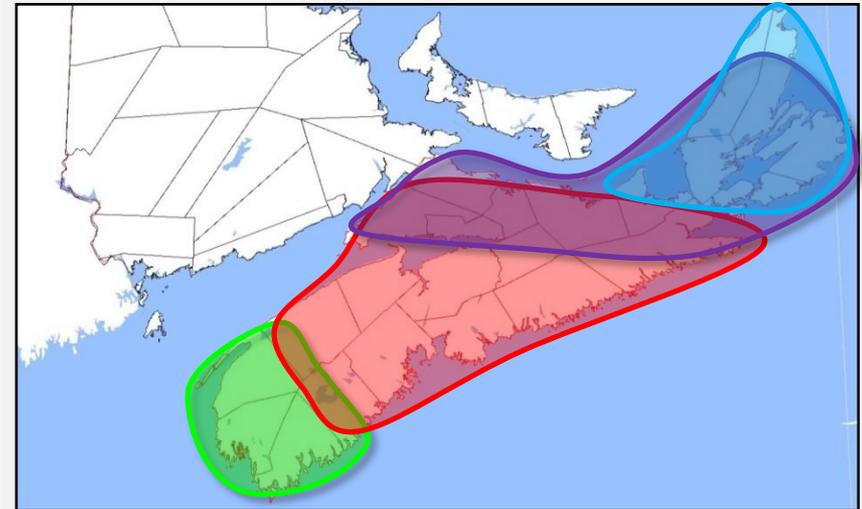
Southern Zone: Sunday morning

Western Zone: Early Sunday morning

Central zone: Overnight into Sunday morning

Eastern Zone: Overnight into Sunday morning

Areas to Monitor



Impacts

Similar storms in the past have caused:

- Hazardous driving conditions
- Major travel disruptions
- Ice accumulation on trees, power lines, etc.
- Power outages
- Slippery road and sidewalk conditions from ice build up

This page is an experimental summary page. Confidence level is subjective and refers to the overall confidence in the weather scenario based on its complexity and model performance. Low and moderate-confidence storms should be given a wider margin of error. The map highlights regions of higher probability of occurrence of certain hazards but these hazards could extend beyond the highlighted areas depicted on the map. Impacts are based on documented occurrences that have resulted from storms with similar extent and severity of hazards.

Synopsis

A quick update on the Sunday system, with no major changes to note.

Confidence is growing that a significant freezing precipitation event will occur over many parts of Nova Scotia on Sunday. Saturday will see showers or periods of rain late in the day with southwesterly winds bringing in mild temperatures during the day. Overnight a trough will push down from the north and bring with it cooler air. This will turn the showers over to freezing rain, ice pellets and snow overnight beginning in the north, and will spread southward across most of NS by Sunday morning. As the warm front approaches on Sunday it will maintain this set up of precipitation across NS, with snow in the north, then ice pellets, then freezing rain, then rain furthest south. The precipitation will continue until Sunday evening when the warm front and its associated low, both move east and away from the Maritimes. Lingering flurries and temperatures below zero are expected Sunday night. No precipitation is expected Monday, and day time highs of -1 in the south to -5 C in the north are expected. No significant winds are expected with this system.

During the day Sunday the following weather can be expected:

Snow – accumulation of 5 to 10 cm over northern areas, with 15 cm or more for northern Cape Breton

Ice Pellets – an extended period (12 hours or more) over Northern NS and Cape Breton

Freezing Rain – an extended period (12 hours or more) over an area covering most of the Annapolis Valley, Central NS, South Shore, and Eastern Shore.

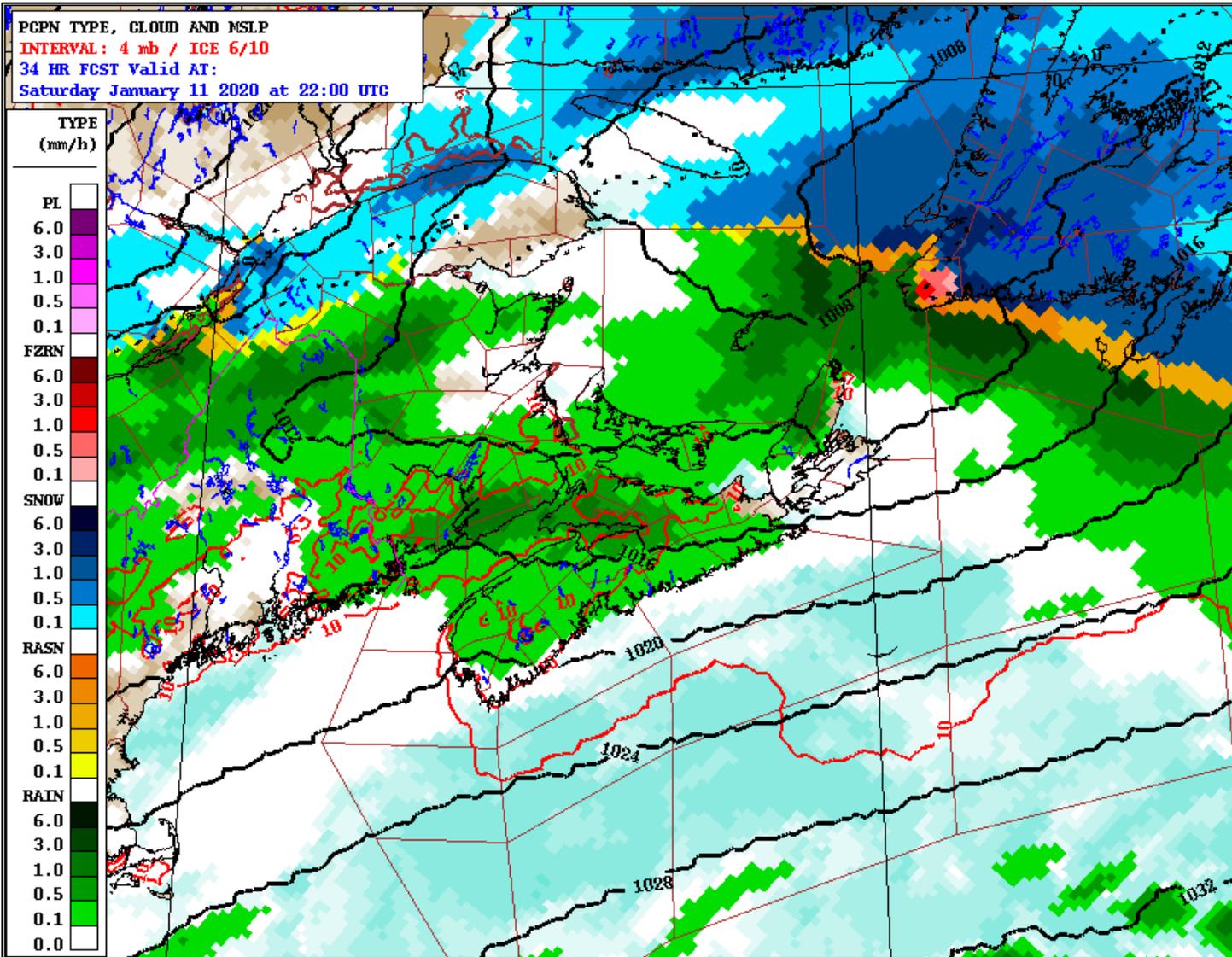
Rainfall – amounts 40 to 50 mm possible in the southwest / Tri-County area

Special Weather Statements are in effect. Further warnings may be required later.

The latest alerts can be found at: http://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=ns

This briefing package will be updated Saturday.

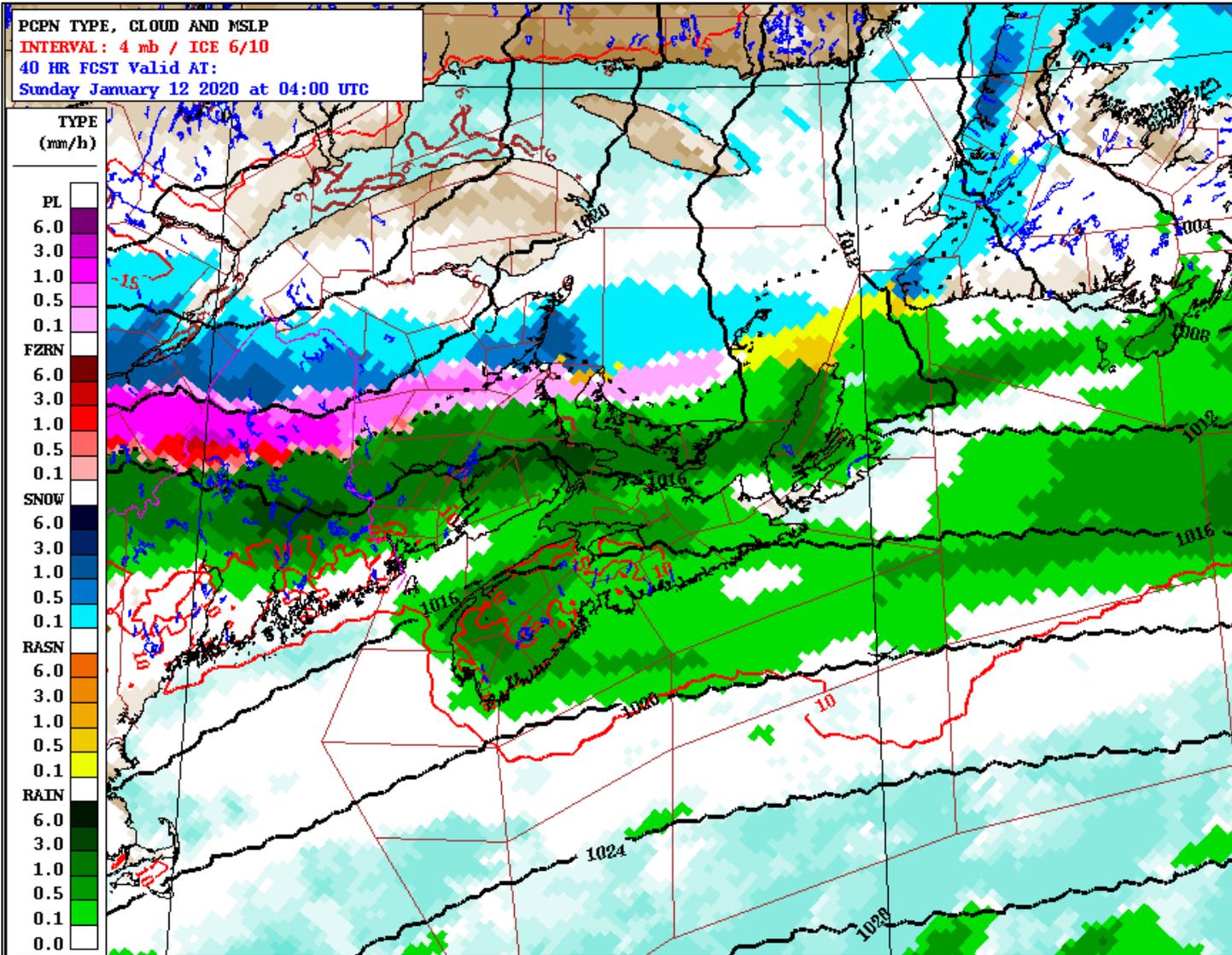
Model depiction for 6pm Saturday evening



Showers from a trough that will affect NS during the day continue. Winds from the southwest with mild temperatures.

Precipitation Type By Colour: Blue – Snow Red – Freezing Rain
 Purple – Ice Pellets Green - Rain

Model depiction for 12am midnight Sunday



Showers continue without a break from the departing trough and approaching warm front. Colder air over the Gulf about to reach NS behind the trough in northwest winds. Leading edge of freezing precipitation extending through NB.

Precipitation Type By Colour:

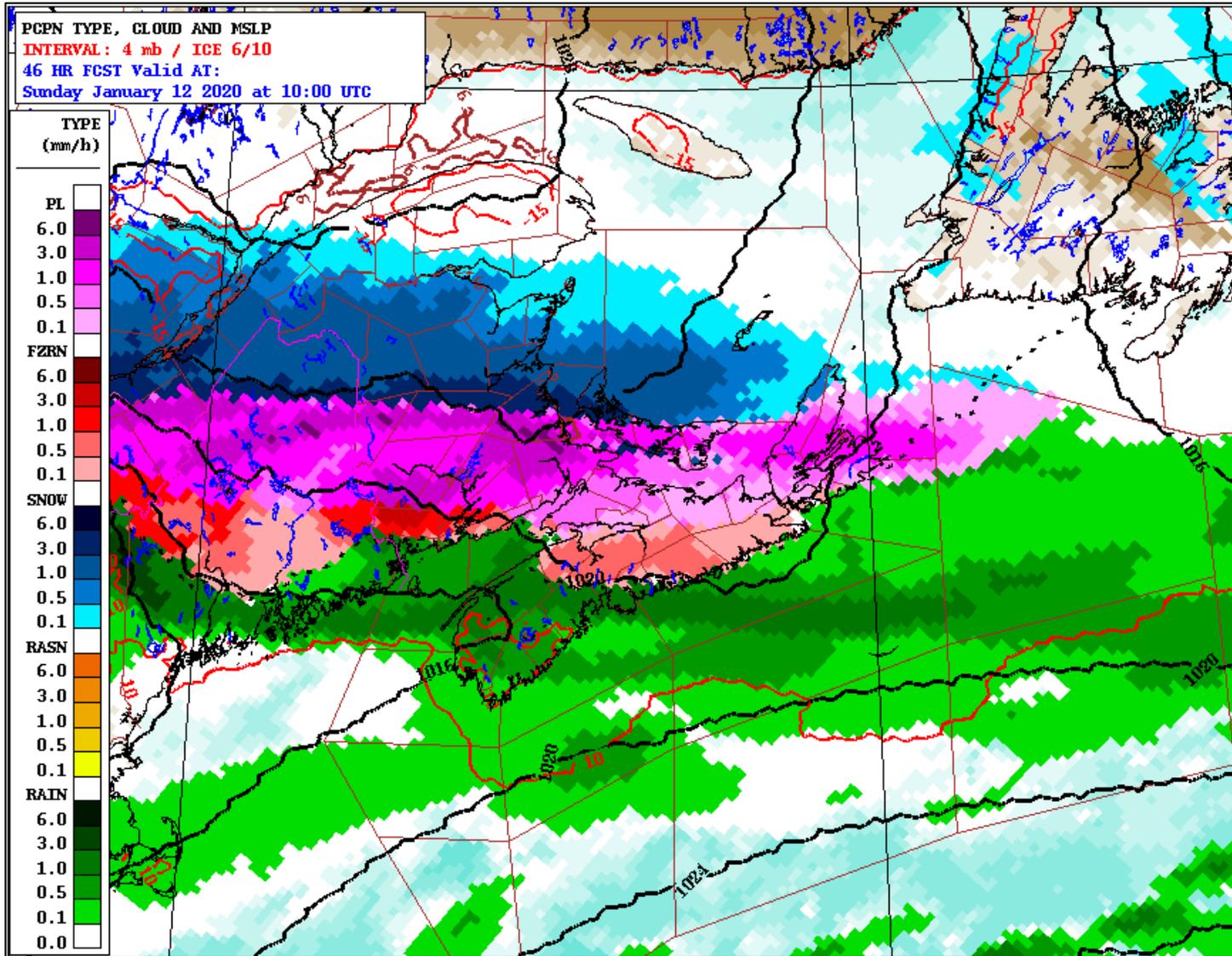
Blue – Snow

Purple – Ice Pellets

Red – Freezing Rain

Green - Rain

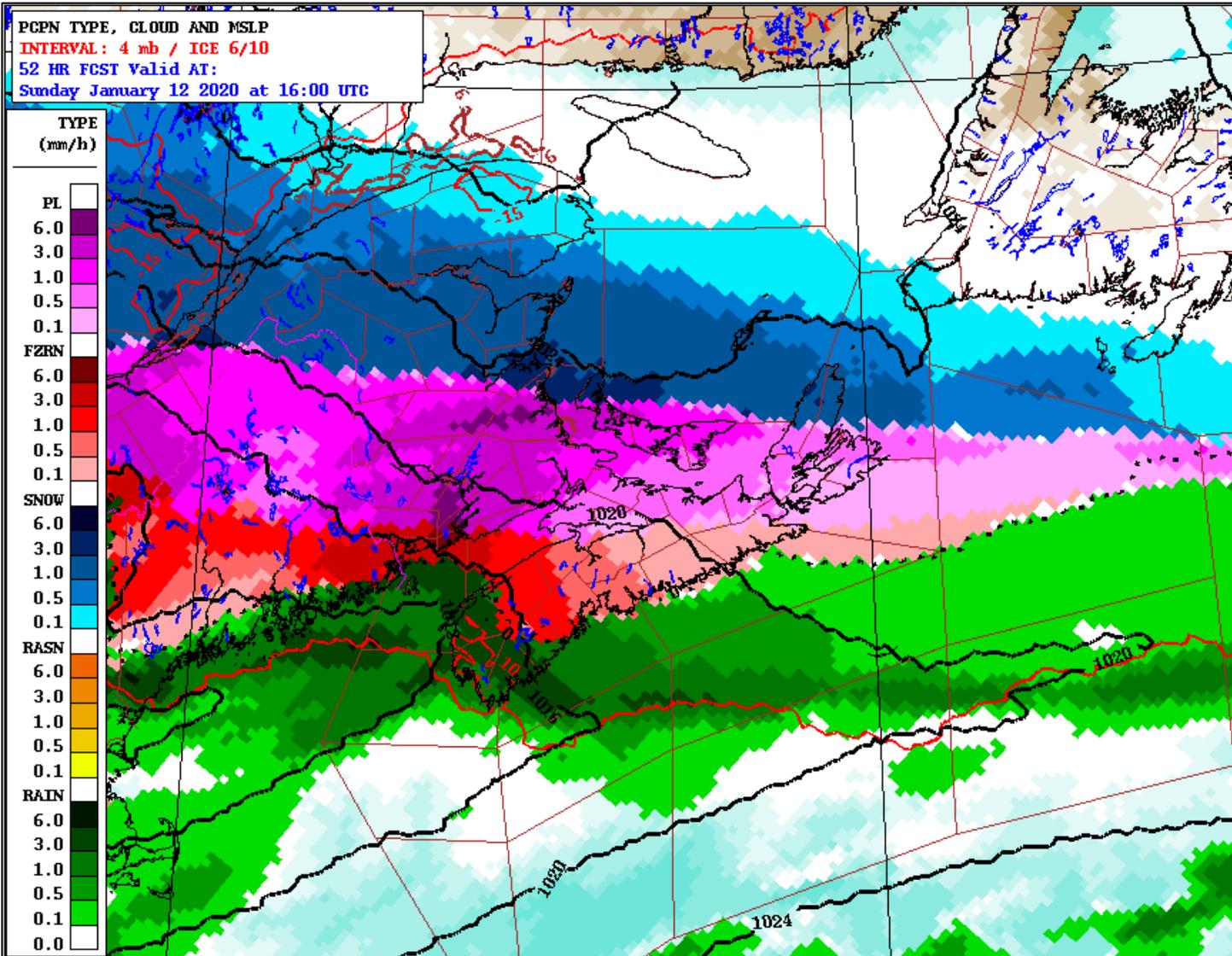
Model depiction for 6am Sunday morning



Ice pellets has moved over Cape Breton and northern NS, with freezing rain over parts of central and eastern NS. Rain continues in the southwest.

Precipitation Type By Colour: Blue – Snow Red – Freezing Rain
 Purple – Ice Pellets Green - Rain

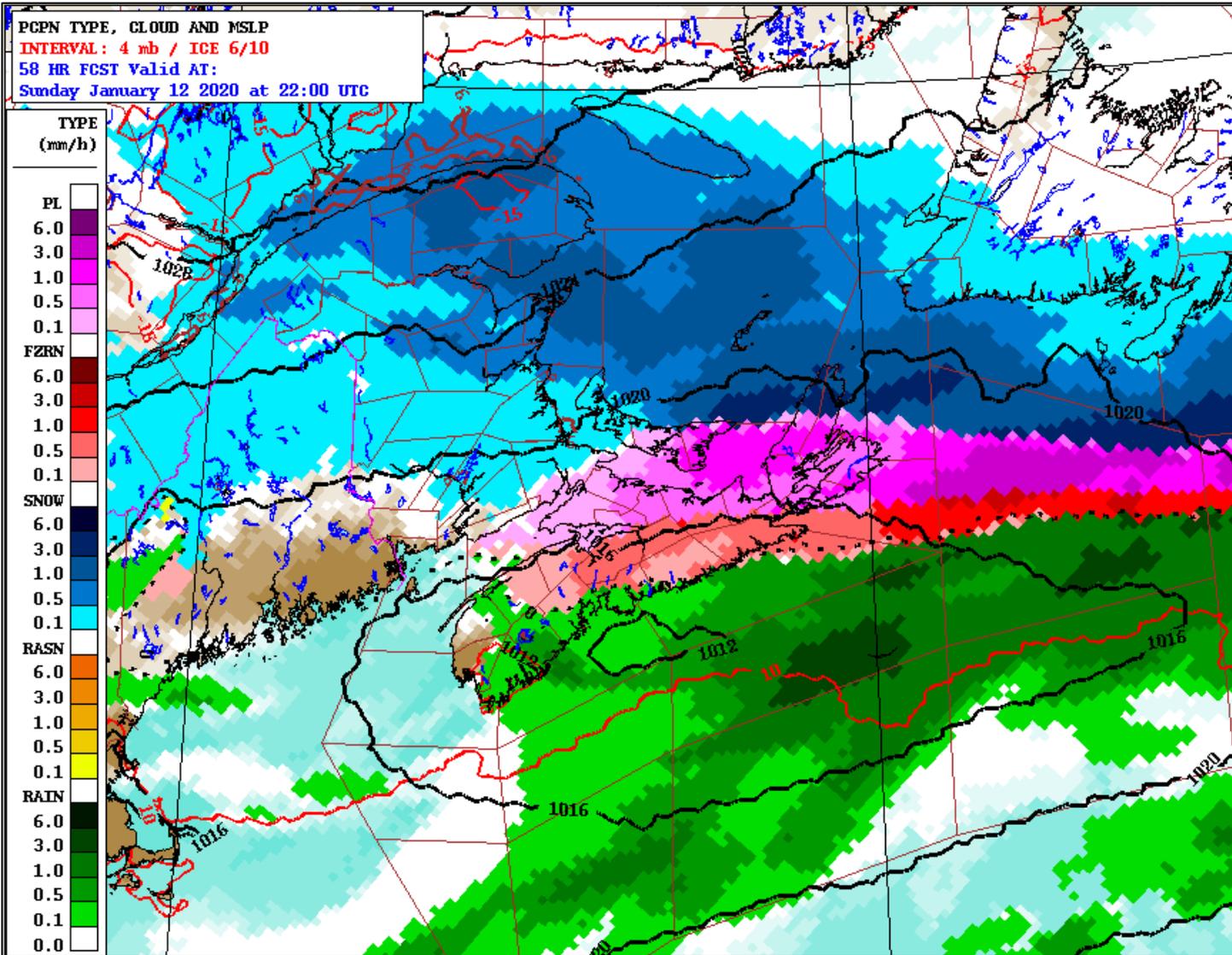
Model depiction for 12pm noon Sunday



Snow in the far north, then an area of ice pellets over northern NS. Freezing rain covering an area from eastern shore down to the valley and south shore. Rain in the far south.

Precipitation Type By Colour: Blue – Snow
Purple – Ice Pellets
Red – Freezing Rain
Green - Rain

Model depiction for 6pm Sunday evening



The low center and warm front have moved just south of NS. Precipitation continues across NS but starting to ease up in the west.

Precipitation Type By Colour:

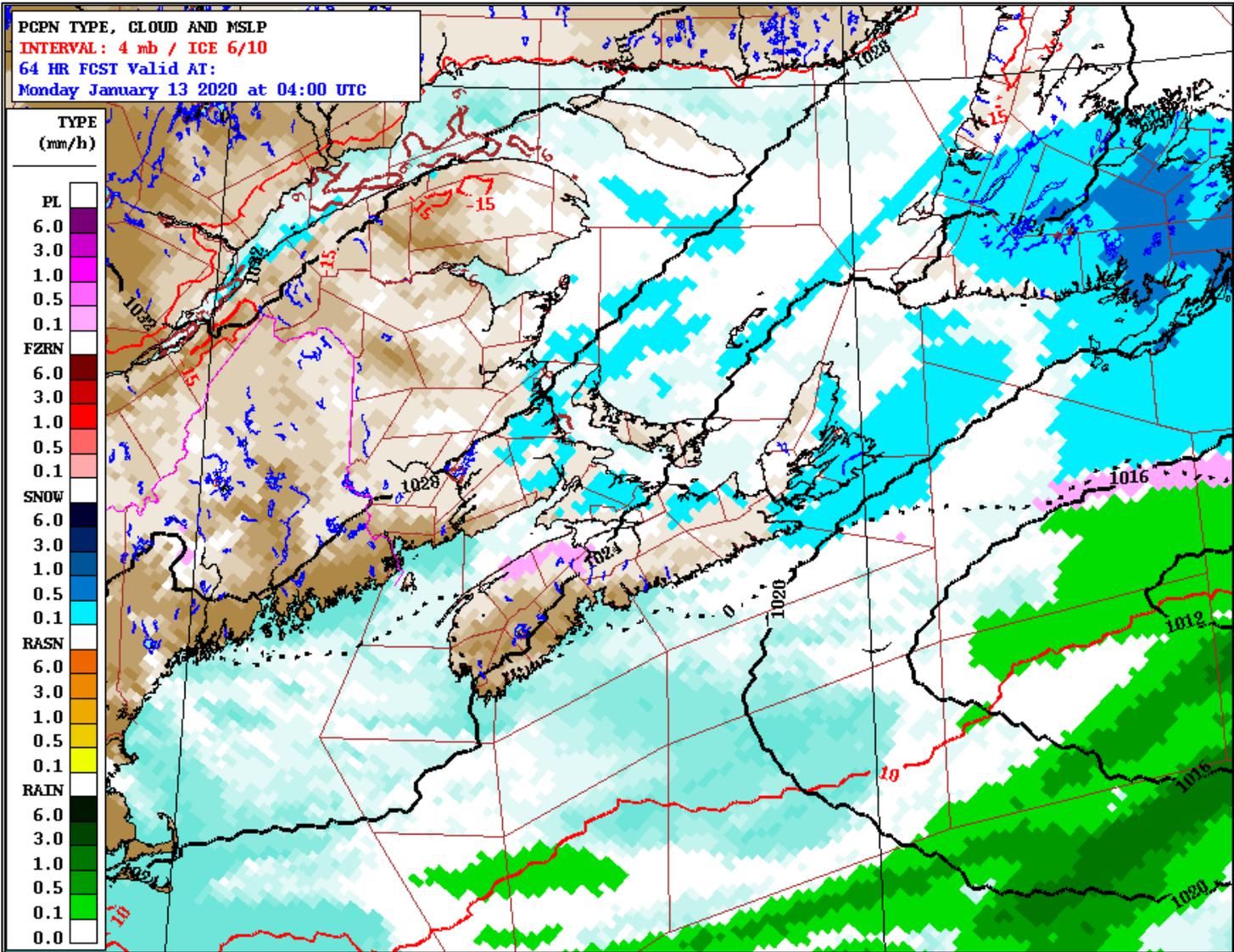
Blue – Snow

Purple – Ice Pellets

Red – Freezing Rain

Green - Rain

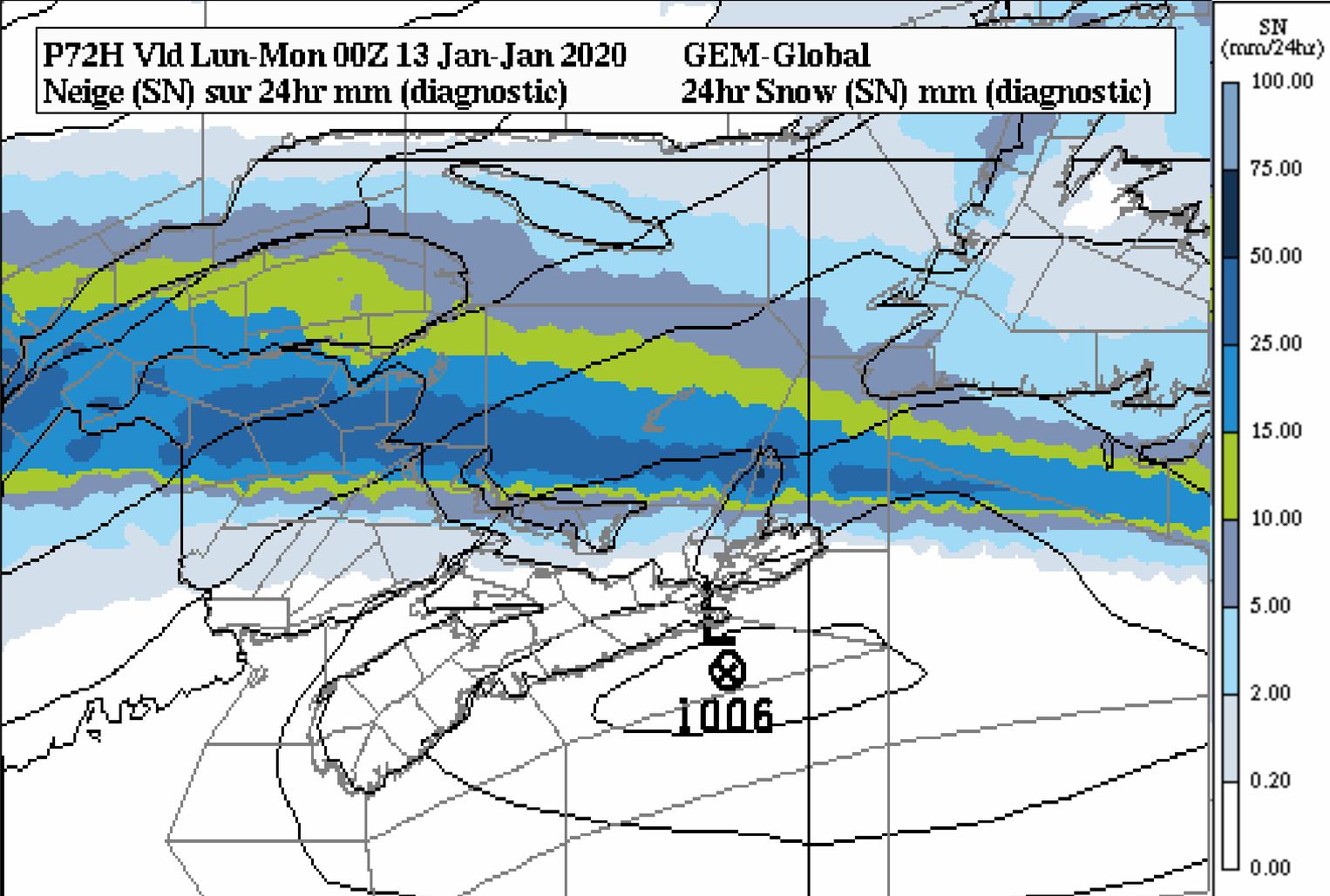
Model depiction for 12am midnight Monday



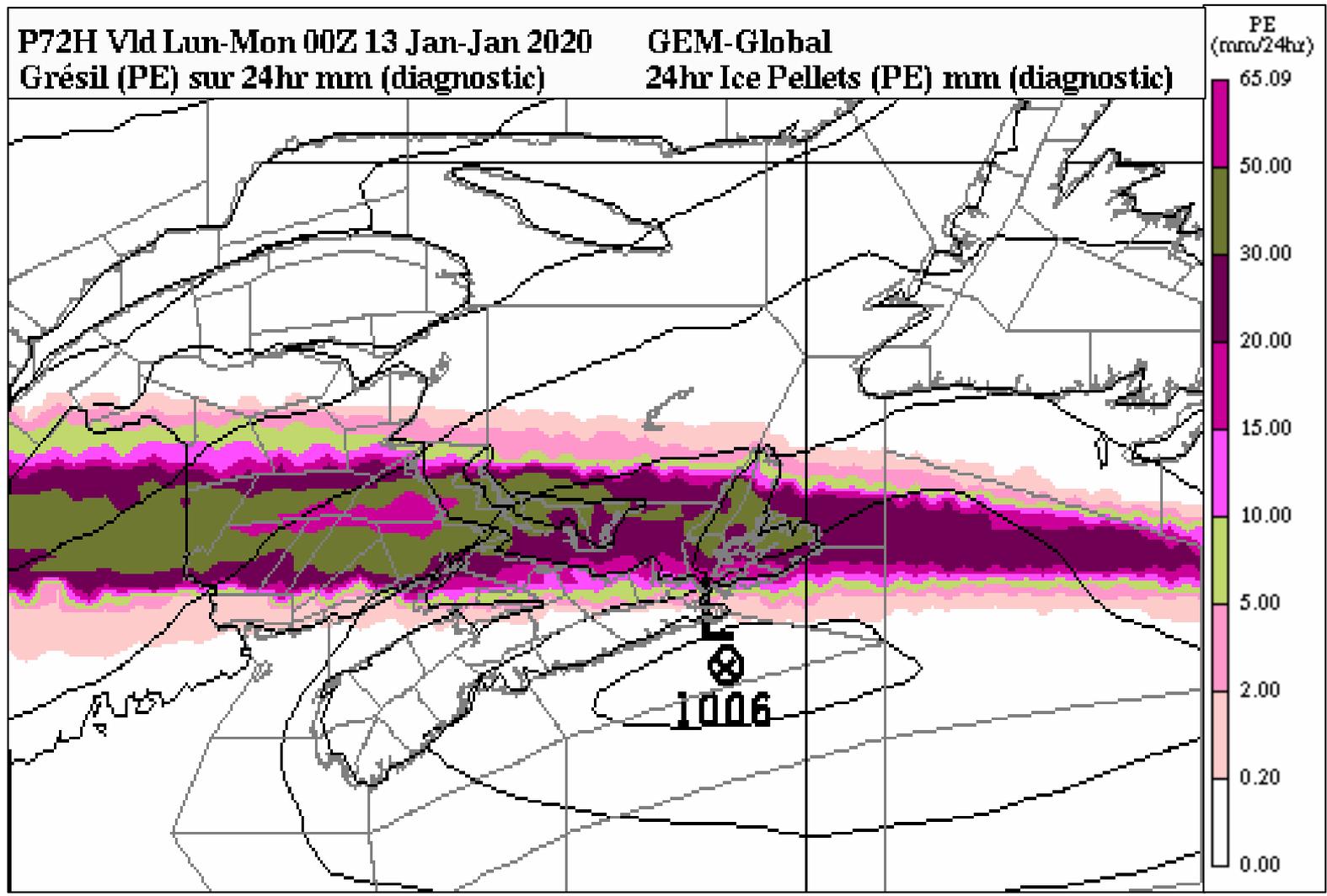
Low center and warm front have moved east and pulling away, taking with it the warmer air. Some lingering precip but will end overnight.

Precipitation Type By Colour: Blue – Snow Red – Freezing Rain
 Purple – Ice Pellets Green - Rain

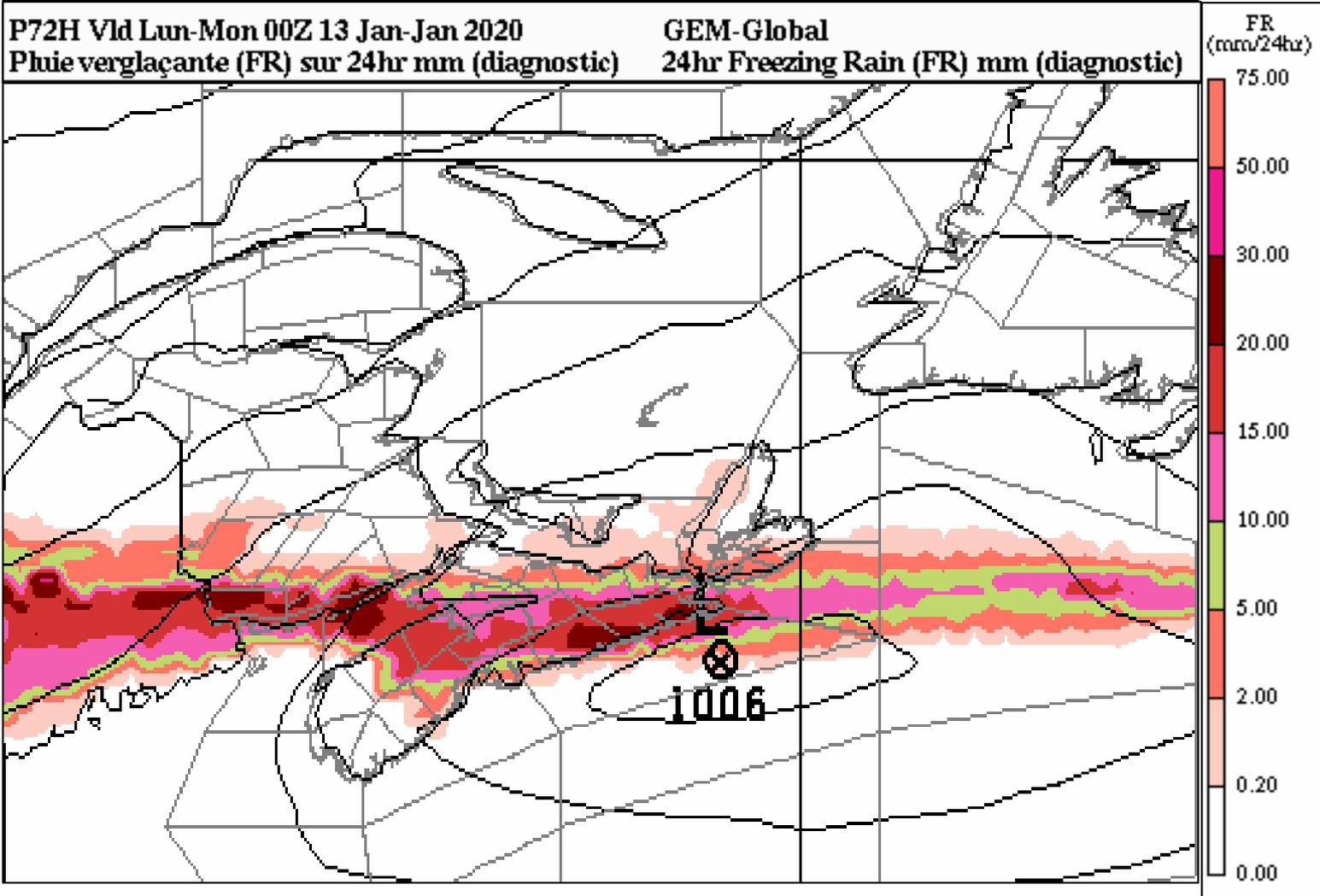
Model Predicted Snowfall (cm) by 8pm Sunday



Model Predicted Ice Pellets (mm water eq) by 8pm Sunday



Model Predicted Freezing Rain (mm) by 8pm Sunday



Model Predicted Rainfall (mm) by 8pm Sunday

