

NOUS41 KWBC 132100
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...COMMENT REQUEST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
400 PM EST WED FEB 13 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
-FAMILY OF SERVICES
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
-NOAAPORT
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: KENNETH E. GRAHAM
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION CHIEF
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES

SUBJECT: SOLICITING COMMENTS THROUGH MARCH 7 2008 FOR CHANGE IN ALL NWS
WATCH...WARNING...ADVISORY AND STATEMENT TEXT PRODUCTS

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13 2008 AND CONTINUING THROUGH MARCH 7
2008...NWS IS SEEKING FEEDBACK ON A PROPOSAL TO DELINEATE THE CALL TO
ACTION /CTA/ FIELD IN ALL NWS WATCH...WARNING...ADVISORY AND FOLLOW-UP
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/-FORMATTED TEXT PRODUCTS
/ABBREVIATED AS W/W/A/S IN THIS NOTICE/ BY INSERTING INSTRUCTION FIELD
MARKERS AROUND THE CTA STATEMENTS. COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION HAS
BEEN ONGOING SINCE SEPTEMBER 2007. THE SHORTER REVIEW AND COMMENT
TIMEFRAME IS DUE TO OUR DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE.

TO AGGRESSIVELY RESPOND TO THE URGENT NEED FOR A SEPARATE SUITE OF
STANDARDIZED COMMON ALERTING PROTOCOL /CAP/ MESSAGES...NWS IS PROPOSING TO
ADD CTA OR INSTRUCTION FIELD MARKERS INTO ALL NWS TEXT W/W/A/S PRODUCTS.
THIS MARKER WOULD PROVIDE A RELIABLE WAY TO PARSE THE CTA INFORMATION FROM
EXISTING W/W/A/S TEXT PRODUCTS TO ENABLE POPULATING THE INSTRUCTION
ELEMENT IN A SEPARATE CAP MESSAGE. CURRENTLY...NWS WEATHER FORECAST
OFFICES /WFO/ ISSUE W/W/A/S WITH AN UNFORMATTED /FREE-TEXT/ CTA SENTENCE
OR PARAGRAPH THAT PROVIDES APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN CORRESPONDING
TO THE EVENT MENTIONED IN THE TEXT PRODUCT.

THE INSTRUCTION FIELD MARKERS WILL BE INSERTED INTO THE W/W/A/S TEXT
PRODUCTS AUTOMATICALLY BY AWIPS PRODUCT GENERATION SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS.
THE INSTRUCTION FIELD MARKERS WILL BE LEFT JUSTIFIED WITH NO OTHER
PRINTABLE CHARACTERS ON THE SAME LINE AS THE MARKERS. EXAMPLES OF THIS
CHANGE ARE POSTED ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIFICATION/RESOURCES/CTA.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/resources/cta.pdf)

THE ADDITION OF THE CTA MARKERS IS A TEMPORARY CHANGE UNTIL CAP-FORMATTED
MESSAGES CAN BE DIRECTLY GENERATED FROM THE NEXT GENERATION WARNING TOOL
IN 2012. THIS PROPOSAL IS THE ONLY CHANGE NWS EXPECTS TO MAKE IN EXISTING
TEXT PRODUCTS TO ENABLE DOWNSTREAM CAP MESSAGE PRODUCTION.

AS A FIRST STEP...THE EXPERIMENTAL MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE /MWW/ TEXT PRODUCT HAS BEEN USING THE PROPOSED CTA MARKERS SINCE EARLY OCTOBER 2007. PLEASE NOTE: MODERN BROWSERS DO NOT DISPLAY THE ACTUAL CTA MARKERS BUT THE MARKERS CAN BE SEEN WHEN THE SOURCE CODE IS VIEWED. A STATIC EXAMPLE OF THE EXPERIMENTAL MWW IS POSTED ONLINE NEAR THE END OF WEBPAGE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/MWW](http://www.weather.gov/os/mww)

USERS OF ALL W/W/A/S ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSED INCLUSION OF CTA OR INSTRUCTION FIELD MARKERS IN ALL NWS TEXT W/W/A/S PRODUCTS BY USING THE BRIEF SURVEY AND COMMENT FORM AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SURVEY/NWS-SURVEY.PHP?CODE=CTA](http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=cta)

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROPOSED CHANGE...CONTACT:

HERB WHITE
NWS AWARENESS BRANCH
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND
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NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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