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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...COMMENT REQUEST AMENDED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
405 PM EST THU NOV 13 2008

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

FROM: THOMAS GRAZIANO
CHIEF...HYDROLOGIC SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: AMENDED: COMMENTS SOUGHT BY DECEMBER 8 2008 ON POSSIBLE
UNIFICATION OF EVENT-BASED FLOOD PRODUCTS UNDER THE FLOOD WARNING /FLW/
IDENTIFIER

AMENDED TO EXTEND DUE DATE FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL UNTIL DECEMBER 8
2008.

NWS IS SEEKING COMMENTS BY DECEMBER 8 2008 ON A PROPOSAL TO UNIFY ALL
EVENT-BASED HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS UNDER THE FLOOD WARNING /FLW/ IDENTIFIER.
IF IMPLEMENTED...THE CHANGE WOULD NOT OCCUR FOR THREE OR MORE YEARS.
ADVANTAGES TO UNIFYING EVENT-BASED HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS UNDER A SINGLE
IDENTIFIER INCLUDE:

- SIMPLER CONFIGURATION - FOLLOWS THE APPROACH USED IN NWS WINTER STORM /WSW/ AND NON-PRECIPITATION /NPW/ PRODUCTS AND ELIMINATES THE CONFUSION CAUSED BY THE MULTIPLE IDENTIFIERS USED IN CURRENT FLOOD PRODUCTS.
- PROVIDES A NEW TRANSITION CAPABILITY. FOR EXAMPLE...IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ISSUE A PRODUCT ANNOUNCING THE TRANSITION FROM A FLASH FLOOD WARNING TO A LONGER DURATION FLOOD WARNING.
- PROVIDES UPGRADE AND DOWNGRADE CAPABILITIES. FOR EXAMPLE...IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ISSUE A PRODUCT ANNOUNCING THE UPGRADE OF A FLOOD WATCH TO A FLOOD WARNING.
- PROVIDES MAXIMUM ABILITY TO ISSUE PRODUCTS COMBINING DIFFERENT TYPES OF WATCHES...WARNINGS AND/OR ADVISORIES. FOR EXAMPLE...IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ISSUE A SINGLE PRODUCT WITH MULTIPLE SEGMENTS FOR A POINT-BASED FLOOD WARNING FOR ONE OR MORE RIVER LOCATIONS...A POINT-BASED FLOOD ADVISORY FOR ONE OR MORE LOCATIONS...A POINT-BASED FLOOD WATCH FOR ONE OR MORE LOCATIONS...AND AN AREAL FLOOD WARNING FOR ALL OR PART OF THE RIVER BASIN AFFECTED BY WIDESPREAD SMALL STREAM FLOODING.
- PLACES EMPHASIS ON THE VERSITILE INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/ RATHER THAN PRODUCT IDENTIFIERS.

POSSIBLE FUTURE PRODUCTS SHOWING BENEFITS OF UNIFYING EVENT-BASED HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS UNDER THE FLW IDENTIFIER CAN BE FOUND ON THE HYDROLOGIC VTEC WEBPAGE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OS/VTEC/HYDRO VTEC.SHTML](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/vtec/hydro_vtec.shtml)

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE EVENT-BASED PRODUCTS THAT WOULD BE UNIFIED UNDER THE FLOOD WARNING /FLW/ IDENTIFIER:

CURRENT IDENTIFIER	PRODUCT NAME
FFA	FLOOD WATCH /AREAL/
FFA	FLASH FLOOD WATCH /AREAL/
FFA	FLOOD WATCH FOR FORECAST POINTS
FFW	FLASH FLOOD WARNING
FFS	FLASH FLOOD STATEMENT
FLW	FLOOD WARNING FOR FORECAST POINTS
FLS	FLOOD STATEMENT - FOLLOW-UP TO FLOOD WARNING FOR FORECAST POINTS
FLW	AREAL FLOOD WARNING
FLS	FLOOD STATEMENT - FOLLOW-UP TO AREAL FLOOD WARNING
FLS	FLOOD STATEMENT - AREAL ADVISORIES
FLS	FLOOD STATEMENT - FLOOD ADVISORY FOR FORECAST POINTS

EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE MULTIPLE SEGMENTS IN A FLW PRODUCT...WARNINGS OF HIGH URGENCY SUCH AS FLASH FLOODS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED AS STAND-ALONE PRODUCTS TO ENSURE THEY ARE NOT LOST AMONG OTHER SEGMENTS.

THE CHANGE...IF IMPLEMENTED...WOULD MAINLY AFFECT USERS WHO AUTOMATICALLY PROCESS AND DISTRIBUTE NWS PRODUCTS TO THEIR CUSTOMERS... SUCH AS RADIO AND TV STATIONS. THE CHANGE WOULD BE COORDINATED WELL IN ADVANCE WITH THESE DISTRIBUTORS AND WOULD OCCUR ON A WELL PUBLICIZED DATE. THEREFORE...IT WOULD NOT AFFECT HOW THE GENERAL PUBLIC RECEIVES PRODUCTS FROM THE INTERNET...NOAA WEATHER RADIO ALL HAZARDS...OR MEDIA SUCH AS TELEVISION OR RADIO. ALL CURRENT WATCHES...WARNINGS AND ADVISORIES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED AND EACH TYPE OF ISSUANCE WOULD BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WITHIN EACH FLW PRODUCT.

IF EVENT-BASED HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ARE UNIFIED UNDER THE FLW IDENTIFIER...AUTOMATED PROCESSING OF FLW PRODUCTS WOULD REQUIRE PARSING OF VTEC ACTION...PHENOMENON AND SIGNIFICANCE CODES CONTAINED IN EACH SEGMENT. THIS PARSING OF VTEC WOULD REVEAL THE CURRENT STATUS OF EACH WATCH...WARNING AND/OR ADVISORY CONTAINED IN THE PRODUCT AND WHETHER IT IS A NEW ISSUANCE...CONTINUATION...EXTENSION...CANCELLATION...ETC.

A ONE-PAGE SUMMARY OF VTEC IS AVAILABLE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/VTEC/PDFS/VTEC_EXPLANATION6.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/os/vtec/pdfs/vtec_explanation6.pdf)

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON OTHER WAYS THE NWS CAN IMPROVE FLOOD PRODUCTS AND THE COMMUNICATION OF FLOOD RISK ALSO ARE WELCOME. IF A DECISION IS MADE TO PROCEED WITH THE PROPOSAL...ADDITIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION

STATEMENTS WILL BE ISSUED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS TO PROVIDE UPDATES ON PLANS FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION. THE NWS ALSO WILL ESTABLISH AN ONGOING DIALOG WITH PARTNERS AND OTHER USERS ON ANY CHANGES THROUGH THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

IF YOU HAVE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

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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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