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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...COMMENT REQUEST CORRECTED  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
300 PM EST MON MAR 3 2008

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

FROM: ELI JACKS  
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CORRECTED: CURRENTLY SOLICITING PUBLIC COMMENTS BY APRIL 8 2008  
REGARDING A PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF SOME NWS WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY AND  
WARNING PRODUCTS

CORRECTED TO INCLUDE PROPOSED INTENTION REGARDING LAKE EFFECT SNOW AND  
BLOWING SNOW ADVISORY WHICH IS ONLY ISSUED BY NWS CENTRAL REGION /CR/  
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFOS/.

EFFECTIVE MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1 2008 AT 0001 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME  
/UTC/...NWS PROPOSES TO CHANGE THE SUITE OF PRODUCTS USED TO ADVISE AND  
WARN PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC OF SIGNIFICANT WINTER WEATHER. THE PURPOSE  
OF THIS PROPOSED CHANGE IS TO SIMPLIFY AND CLARIFY THE COMMUNICATION AND  
DISSEMINATION OF EXPECTED WINTER WEATHER HAZARDS.

FEEDBACK FROM MANY OF OUR PARTNERS AND PUBLIC USERS OVER THE PAST THREE  
YEARS...COMBINED WITH INPUT FROM NWS FIELD MANAGERS AND  
FORECASTERS...STRONGLY SUGGESTS SERVICE CAN BE IMPROVED BY REDUCING THE  
NUMBER OF SPECIFIC WINTER WEATHER WARNING AND ADVISORY PRODUCTS. THIS  
PROPOSED REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF PRODUCTS WOULD ENHANCE THE CLARITY AND  
CONSISTENCY OF NWS WINTER WEATHER PRODUCTS. ALSO...THE GRAPHICAL  
DEPICTION OF FORECAST WINTER WEATHER HAZARDS VIA THE NWS HOMEPAGE AND  
OTHER GRAPHICAL MEANS WOULD BE MORE UNDERSTANDABLE.

THE PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF NWS WINTER WEATHER PRODUCTS WOULD BE  
ACCOMPLISHED BY COMBINING A NUMBER OF CURRENT ADVISORY AND WARNING  
CATEGORIES WITH SIMILAR IMPACTS. FOR EXAMPLE...CONDITIONS THAT CURRENTLY  
PROMPT THE ISSUANCE OF SEPARATE WINTER WEATHER...SNOW...SNOW AND BLOWING  
SNOW...SLEET...AND/OR BLOWING SNOW ADVISORIES WOULD BE ISSUED...AND VTEC-  
CODED...AS WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES. SIMILARLY...CONDITIONS THAT  
CURRENTLY PROMPT THE ISSUANCE OF SEPARATE WINTER STORM...HEAVY SNOW AND/OR  
SLEET WARNINGS WOULD BE ISSUED...AND VALID TIME EVENT CODE /VTEC/-  
CODED...AS WINTER STORM WARNINGS.

IN ADDITION...CONDITIONS THAT CURRENTLY PROMPT THE ISSUANCE OF SEPARATE  
LAKE EFFECT SNOW AND LAKE EFFECT SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW ADVISORIES BY CR  
WFOS WOULD BE ISSUED...AND VTEC-CODED...AS LAKE EFFECT SNOW ADVISORIES BY  
THOSE WFOS.

THE NWS WOULD DISCONTINUE USE OF THE VTEC CODES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISCONTINUED ADVISORY AND WARNING PRODUCTS.

FREEZING RAIN...LAKE EFFECT SNOW...AND WIND CHILL ADVISORIES WOULD STILL BE ISSUED DUE TO THE SEVERITY AND UNIQUENESS OF THEIR IMPACTS. SIMILARLY...BLIZZARD...ICE STORM...LAKE EFFECT SNOW...AND WIND CHILL WARNINGS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED.

AS ALWAYS...SPECIFIC INFORMATION RELATING TO THE TYPE OF HAZARD WOULD BE CLEARLY DEPICTED IN THE BODY OF THE ADVISORY OR WARNING PRODUCT.

NO SOFTWARE CHANGES BY NWS PARTNERS OR USERS ARE ANTICIPATED AS A RESULT OF THIS PROPOSED CHANGE.

THE FOLLOWING TABLES SHOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CURRENT AND PROPOSED ADVISORY AND WARNING CATEGORIES:

TABLE 1 - WINTER ADVISORIES

CURRENT WINTER ADVISORIES -----	PROPOSED WINTER ADVISORIES -----
FREEZING RAIN -----	FREEZING RAIN
LAKE EFFECT SNOW -----	LAKE EFFECT SNOW
LAKE EFFECT SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW -	LAKE EFFECT SNOW
WIND CHILL -----	WIND CHILL
WINTER WEATHER -----	WINTER WEATHER
SNOW -----	WINTER WEATHER
SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW -----	WINTER WEATHER
SLEET -----	WINTER WEATHER
BLOWING SNOW -----	WINTER WEATHER

TABLE 2 - WINTER WARNINGS

CURRENT WINTER WARNINGS -----	PROPOSED WINTER WARNINGS -----
BLIZZARD -----	BLIZZARD
ICE STORM -----	ICE STORM
LAKE EFFECT SNOW -----	LAKE EFFECT SNOW
WIND CHILL -----	WIND CHILL
WINTER STORM -----	WINTER STORM
HEAVY SNOW -----	WINTER STORM
SLEET -----	WINTER STORM

A GRAPHICAL DEPICTION OF TABLES 1 AND 2 AND EXAMPLES OF HOW ADVISORY AND WARNING PRODUCTS WILL BE FORMATTED AS A RESULT OF THIS PROPOSED CHANGE CAN BE FOUND AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/WINTER/RESOURCES/WSW\\_EX.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/os/winter/resources/wsw_ex.pdf)

THE NWS WELCOMES PARTNER AND PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THIS PROPOSED CHANGE. PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS /WITH THE SUBJECT LINE: COMMENTS ON PROPOSED WINTER WEATHER SIMPLIFICATION/ TO:

[ELLIOTT.JACKS@NOAA.GOV](mailto:ELLIOTT.JACKS@NOAA.GOV)

AFTER A REVIEW OF ALL COMMENTS...THE NWS WILL DECIDE BY MAY 1 2008 WHETHER OR NOT TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROPOSED CHANGE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE ISSUANCE AND DISSEMINATION OF WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES AND WARNINGS...PLEASE CONTACT:

PAUL STOKOLS  
FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND  
301-713-1867 EXT. 139  
[PAUL.STOKOLS@NOAA.GOV](mailto:PAUL.STOKOLS@NOAA.GOV)

OR THE WARNING COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST /WCM/ AT YOUR LOCAL WFO.

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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