

NOUS41 KWBC 281715  
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...COMMENT REQUEST  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
115 PM EDT FRI MAY 28 2010

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

FROM: JASON TUELL  
ACTING CHIEF...PERFORMANCE AND AWARENESS DIVISION

SUBJECT: SOLICITING PUBLIC COMMENTS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15 2010 ON PROPOSED  
CHANGE TO MIXED CASE AND EXPANDED CHARACTER SET IN ALL NWS TEXT PRODUCTS

REFERENCE: [SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-28](#) ON USE OF UPPER AND LOWER CASE  
LETTERS IN NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS...SERVICE CHANGE AND  
TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 16 2010.

BEGINNING MAY 28 AND CONTINUING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15 2010...NWS IS SEEKING  
USER FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE ALL NWS TEXT PRODUCTS TO INCLUDE  
UPPER AND LOWER CASE ALPHABETIC CHARACTERS RATHER THAN ALL UPPERCASE AS IS  
PRESENTLY DONE. ADDITIONAL PUNCTUATION AND OTHER CHARACTERS THAT ARE PART  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE ALPHABET NO. 5 WOULD ALSO BE PERMITTED.

MANY NWS PARTNERS AND USERS HAVE IDENTIFIED THE NEED FOR NWS TEXT PRODUCTS  
/WATCH /WARNING /ADVISORY /STATEMENT /FORECAST /ENVIRONMENTAL DATA/ TO BE  
PROVIDED IN MIXED CASE AND TO INCLUDE AN EXPANDED PUNCTUATION AND  
CHARACTER SET. THIS CHANGE WOULD MAKE TEXT PRODUCTS EASIER TO READ AND  
ALLOW USERS TO CLICK ON INTERNET LINKS DIRECTLY RATHER THAN CONVERTING  
THEM TO LOWERCASE OR MIXED CASE.

PLEASE SEE [SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-28](#) FOR DETAILS ON RELATED CHANGES TO  
PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS... SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES AND TECHNICAL  
IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES WITH THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION /WMO/  
HEADING OF NOUS41 KWBC AND AWIPS IDENTIFIER OF PNSWSH. CHANGES TO THOSE  
MESSAGES PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A RISK REDUCTION EFFORT IN A NON-  
OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND FOR VALUABLE USER FEEDBACK.

THE NWS IS SEEKING COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15 2010 AT /USE  
LOWER CASE/:

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

NWS WILL KEEP THE SURVEY AND COMMENT FORM OPEN INDEFINITELY TO TRACK USER  
ISSUES AND COMMENTS OF THIS TRANSITION. USER FEEDBACK WILL HELP NWS  
BETTER PLAN THE EVENTUAL TRANSITION OF ALL NWS TEXT PRODUCTS TO MIXED CASE  
AND EXPANDED CHARACTER SET.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES AND STATEMENTS WILL BE ISSUED AS USER FEEDBACK IS ANALYZED AND PROGRESS IS MADE IN PLANNING FOR TRANSITION OF OTHER NWS PRODUCTS.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

HERB WHITE  
NWS DISSEMINATION SERVICES MANAGER  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND  
[HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV](mailto:HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV)  
301-713-0090 EXT. 146

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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