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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement, Comment Request Amended  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
755 AM EST Tue Feb 24 2015

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: Amended: Soliciting Comments through April 15, 2015, on an  
Experimental Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation Index at Select NWS Weather  
Forecast Offices

Amended to change the product name to Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation  
Index. No change is being made to the product content.

Amended to add WFO Atlanta (FFC) to the list of participating WFOs and  
update PDD and WFO URLs.

NWS is accepting comments through April 15, 2015, on an experimental  
Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation (SPIA) Index:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=SPISA>

Select NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) (Table 1) will produce web  
graphics depicting the potential impact of freezing rain and wind on  
exposed electrical systems to enhance their decision support services.

Current NWS Ice Storm Warnings are issued based on forecast ice  
accumulation only, typically one quarter of an inch or greater. The  
combined effect of ice and wind, which more realistically describes  
damage potential, is not formally set as warning criteria.

By using the SPIA scaled index, NWS should be able to provide a better  
understanding of ice storm impact potential to local, state, and federal  
response entities. The potential impacts are scaled from 0 to 5 and  
suggest potential electrical outage coverage and duration.

Until now, the NWS has not attempted to routinely quantify the impact of  
ice storms. The use of this scaled index will allow the NWS to evaluate  
the potential of providing these specifics. For example, a level 5 ice  
storm would be defined as one causing catastrophic damage to entire  
exposed utility systems, including both distribution and transmission  
networks. Outages could last several weeks in some locations.

Graphics showing forecast index values will be available as part of the routine forecast provided online for the following WFOs:

Table 1: Participating WFOs and URL:

WFO Atlanta (FFC)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/?n=ice_impact_index</a>
WFO Tulsa (TSA)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=ice_impact_index</a>
WFO Little Rock (LZK)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/?n=ice_impact_index</a>
WFO Jackson (JAN)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/?n=ice_impact_index</a>
WFO Nashville (OHX)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ohx/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ohx/?n=ice_impact_index</a>
WFO Memphis (MEG)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/meg/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/meg/?n=ice_impact_index</a>
WFO Norman (OUN)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/?n=ice_impact_index</a>
WFO Springfield (SGF)	<a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=ice_impact_index</a>
WFO Pleasant Hill (EAX)	<a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/?n=ice_impact_index</a>
WFO St. Louis (LSX)	<a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lxx/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lxx/?n=ice_impact_index</a>
WFO Paducah (PAH)	<a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/?n=ice_impact_index</a>

More information regarding the SPIA index is online in a Product Description Document:

[http://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDD-SPIA\\_November2014.pdf](http://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDD-SPIA_November2014.pdf)

During this comment period, a proactive effort will be made to educate users and partners of the product availability and use. At the end of the comment period, the NWS will make a decision on whether to transition the experimental SPIA Index to operational status. The experimental SPIA Index may also be considered for use at other WFOs and NWS Regions.

For more information, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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