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Public Information Statement, Comment Request Amended  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
1027 AM EDT Thu Sep 26 2013

To:           Subscribers:  
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From:         Eli Jacks  
              Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Subject: Amended: Soliciting Comments until April 15, 2014 on an  
Experimental Scaled Predictive Ice Storm Aftermath Index at Select NWS  
Weather Forecast Offices

Amended to extend comment period through April 15, 2014, and to add five  
additional participating Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) (Table 1).

NWS is accepting comments from through April 15, 2014, on an experimental  
Scaled Predictive Ice Storm Aftermath (SPIA) Index.

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

Select NWS 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 zero to five 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 Tulsa, OK (TSA)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=badice">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=badice</a>
WFO Little Rock, AR (LZK)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/</a>
WFO Jackson, MS (JAN)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/</a>
WFO Nashville, TN (OHX)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ohx/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ohx/</a>
WFO Memphis, TN (MEG)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/meg/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/meg/</a>
WFO Norman, OK (OUN)	<a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/</a>
WFO Springfield, MO (SGF)	<a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=ice%20impact%20index">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=ice impact index</a>
WFO Pleasant Hill/Kansas City, MO (EAX)	<a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/?n=ice%20impact%20index">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/?n=ice impact index</a>
WFO St. Louis, MO (LSX)	<a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lxx/?n=ice%20impact%20index">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lxx/?n=ice impact index</a>
WFO Paducah, KY (PAH)	<a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/?n=ice%20impact%20index">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\\_Sept2013.pdf](http://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDD-SPIA_Sept2013.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:

Steven Piltz  
Meteorologist-in-Charge  
National Weather Service  
Tulsa, OK  
918-832-4115  
[steven.piltz@noaa.gov](mailto:steven.piltz@noaa.gov)

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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