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Public Information Statement Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
240 PM EDT Fri Apr 14 2017

To:           Subscribers:  
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              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Fiona Horsfall  
              Chief, Climate Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting comments on Experimental Weeks 3-4  
Precipitation Outlooks through April 15, 2018

Updated to extend the comment period for the experimental Weeks 3-4  
Precipitation Outlooks through April 15, 2018, to improve the skill of the  
forecasts and to gather additional feedback. The experimental Weeks 3-4  
Temperature Outlooks will become operational on or about May 15, 2017 (See  
Service Change Notice (SCN) 17-48):

<https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn17-48week3-4temp.pdf>

The operational Weeks 3-4 temperature outlook and the experimental Week 3-4  
precipitation outlooks are online at:

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/WK34/index.php>

Please provide feedback on the experimental Weeks 3-4 precipitation  
outlooks at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=EXWK34Precip>

Effective September 18, 2015, and continuing through April 15, 2018, the  
NWS is seeking user feedback on experimental Weeks 3-4 precipitation  
outlooks.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) issues temperature and  
precipitation outlooks for the Week-2 and 1-month outlook periods. At the  
current time, no products exist for the intermediate time scale (i.e.,  
Weeks 3-4) between these two forecast time horizons. The CPC seeks to  
close this gap in the NWS seamless suite of outlooks by release of this  
new experimental product. The objective of the product is to highlight  
regions where above or below average 2-week mean temperature and total  
precipitation are favored, as well as provide advance notice of potential  
temperature and precipitation pattern changes to further assist decision  
makers in weather and climate sensitive activities in their decisions.

The audience for this experimental product includes:

- NWS local and regional field structure.
- Local, state, regional and national government entities (emergency management and planning).
- Private sector (energy, water resource management, financial, etc., industries).
- Public and other users.

The experimental Weeks 3-4 temperature and precipitation outlook maps consist of two categories (above- or below-average). The shading depicts the favored category, either above-average (A) or below-average (B) for 2-week mean temperature or 2-week total accumulated precipitation with the solid contour lines giving the probability (> 50%) of this more likely category (above or below).

In areas where the likelihoods of 2-week mean temperature or 2-week total accumulated precipitation amounts are similar to climatological probabilities and a category cannot be favored, equal chances (EC: 50% probability for each category) is indicated. In addition, a text prognostic map discussion will be provided explaining the rationale behind the forecast. The outlooks will be issued weekly on Fridays between 3 pm and 4 pm Eastern time.

Further information on the experimental Week 3-4 temperature and precipitation outlooks can be found in the Product Description Document located at:

[https://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDD\\_CPC\\_Week3-4Outlooks.pdf](https://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDD_CPC_Week3-4Outlooks.pdf)

The experimental Week 3-4 temperature and precipitation outlooks can be accessed at:

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/WK34/index.php>

Please provide feedback on the outlooks at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=EW34TPO>

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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