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Public Information Statement Amended  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
1255 PM EST Wed Jan 13 2016

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From:         Mary Mullusky  
              Chief, Water Resources Services Branch

Subject: Amended: Comment Period Extended until February 29, 2016, for  
Proposed Expansion of NWS Support for Multi-Agency Runoff Risk Forecasts

Amended to extend comment period to February 29, 2016.

NWS is seeking feedback on the proposed expansion of NWS Support for  
Multi-Agency Runoff Risk Forecasts through February 29, 2016.

NWS's North Central River Forecast Center (NCRFC) has been exploring  
usability of NWS river forecast model soil moisture model output for  
applications beyond river flood forecasting. In meeting its hydrologic  
forecast responsibilities to protect life and property and to enhance the  
Nation's economy, the NWS's River Forecast Centers (RFCs) continuously  
simulate, in time and space, moisture within the soil column using the  
Sacramento Soil Moisture Accounting model.

The NCRFC was approached by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade  
and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to explore the usability of NWS hydrologic  
models to stratify the risk of significant forecast runoff from rain or  
snowmelt. The development and implementation of runoff risk forecasts has  
been a multi-agency collaborative effort involving many federal and state  
agencies and academia. Increased awareness of runoff risk in nutrient  
application timing could decrease nutrient transport, a significant factor  
in water quality in many streams, lakes, shallow wells, as well as fueling  
hypoxic zones and harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico  
and other regions around the country. Such a capability has the potential  
to enhance the utility of ongoing NOAA efforts to develop an ecological  
forecasting capability to address these and other nutrient-affected issues  
as well as state- and local-level nutrient management efforts.

The successful implementation of the runoff risk forecasts in Wisconsin  
has generated attention from other states interested in a similar NWS  
partnership. The NWS is proposing expansion of support for these multi-  
agency runoff risk tools in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Ohio  
through federal, state and academic collaboration. Expansion to the  
remaining Great Lakes states and many other states has been requested  
following the states mentioned above.

NWS's proposed expansion of support for Runoff Risk Forecasts is expected to further NOAA's collaboration on multi-agency efforts to ensure safe water quality and healthy ecosystems in the nation's streams, lakes and coastal waters. More details about this proposal can be found at:

<https://products.weather.gov/PDD/FINAL%20Proposal%20for%20Expansion%20of%20NWS%20Support%20for%20the%20Mult-Agency%20Runoff%20Risk%20Forecast%20v7.pdf>

Comments on this proposed effort by NWS may be provided by February 29, 2016, to:

Wendy Pearson  
NWS Central Region Headquarters  
Kansas City, MO  
[wendy.pearson@noaa.gov](mailto:wendy.pearson@noaa.gov)

Questions about RRAF development efforts may be directed to:

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NWS North Central River Forecast Center  
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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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