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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Heath Hockenberry
 Acting Chief, Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments through August 31, 2015, on Change to P-VTEC Line(s) and Associated Headline(s) when Upgrading from Winter Storm Warning or Lake Effect Snow Warning to Ice Storm and Blizzard Warning

NWS is accepting comments on changing some of the P-VTEC line(s) and headlines in the Winter Weather Watches, Warnings and Advisories product (WSW). The proposed change is summarized below:

When a Winter Storm Warning or Lake Effect Snow Warning is upgraded to an Ice Storm or Blizzard Warning for the same geographical area, the WSW segment will now contain only one headline and two P-VTEC lines. The headline will list the new warning only. The first P-VTEC line will use the UPG action code to show the old Winter Storm or Lake Effect Snow Warning being upgraded. The second P-VTEC line will use the NEW action code to start the new Ice Storm or Blizzard Warning.

This proposed change is expected to more accurately reflect and more effectively relay automated communication of winter weather warning information.

For example, under current policy, the following P-VTEC lines and headlines are disseminated when a Winter Storm Warning is changed to an Ice Storm Warning for the same geographical area:

/O.CAN.KOUN.WS.W.0005.000000T0000Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line 1)
/O.NEW.KOUN.IS.W.0005.010128T1030Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line 2)

...Winter Storm Warning is Cancelled...
...Ice Storm Warning in Effect until 6pm CST Sunday...

Under the proposed change, the following P-VTEC lines and headline will be disseminated when a Winter Storm Warning is upgraded to an Ice Storm Warning for the same geographical area:

/O.UPG.KOUN.WS.W.0005.000000T0000Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line 1)
/O.NEW.KOUN.IS.W.0005.010128T1030Z-010129T0000Z/ (P-VTEC line 2)

...Ice Storm Warning in Effect until 6pm CST Sunday...

The example shown above would be identical when upgrading from a Winter Storm Warning to a Blizzard Warning and when upgrading from a Lake Effect Snow Warning to an Ice Storm or Blizzard Warning. No other changes are being proposed to the WSW product at this time.

Please submit questions or comments to:

David Soroka
NWS Winter Weather Program Leader
david.soroka@noaa.gov
301-427-9346

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