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Public Information Statement 16-22 Corrected
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
805 AM EDT Mon Aug 1 2016

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Luis Cano
 Director, NWS Office of Dissemination

Subject: Corrected: Soliciting Comments until July 30, 2016 on Security Updates for the NWS Email Data Input System (EDIS)

Corrected to change URL for Registration Page to:

<http://tinyurl.com/z33wp7r>

NWS is accepting comments until July 30, 2016 on the planned Security Upgrades for its Email Data Input System (EDIS) program. This Public Information Statement (PNS) is being issued to advise NWS partners of the updates being planned to enhance security for the EDIS program and to seek any feedback on implementation of these planned measures.

The NWS EDIS Program is a legacy service providing our partners with a simplified process for delivering weather products (SYNOP, METAR, etc.,) and data via email to NWS for further dissemination. In support of the new Integrated Dissemination Program (IDP) NWS Telecommunications Gateway (NWSTG) Re-Architecture project, the NWS is upgrading its EDIS program and expects the system to be ready for testing by July 15, 2016. This system will be more robust and secure than the current legacy system. The NWS will be seeking assistance from our partners with testing the new system and the planned changes once it is placed into service.

There are two planned changes that will affect our partners when the new EDIS system is ready. The first change planned for EDIS will institute a new access policy; the second change will require our partners to implement a message format change to the "Subject Line" of each email containing data that is sent to the NWS for dissemination.

Our new access policy will require all partners to register with the NWS again for an EDIS account. We request our partners register as soon as possible as the proposed schedule has NWS shutting down the legacy EDIS service by September 15, 2016.

The NWS has activated the following webpage for our partners to register for an account on the new EDIS system.

Registration Page: <http://tinyurl.com/z33wp7r>.

Once the user's registration process has been completed and approved, the NWS will provide each partner with two PIN numbers for use with each account. The NWS plans to use PIN numbers to support its security program for the new EDIS system. The first PIN number will be for the current quarterly operations cycle. The second PIN number will be for the upcoming quarterly operations cycle.

Each partner's assigned PIN numbers will need to be included within the Subject Line of each email as a User Certification check. The NWS plans to update PIN numbers quarterly. Partners will need to develop a plan of how to manage and maintain their access to the new EDIS system. The dates on which the NWS will change the PIN numbers are shown below. The NWS will allow each assigned PIN to be used up to five days beyond the end of the scheduled change date to provide time for partners to make a successful transition to their new PIN. During this overlap period, both the new and old PIN numbers will be accepted.

- December (1st day of the month)
- March (1st day of the month)
- June (1st day of the month)
- September (1st day of the month)

PIN Usage Support Services:

Note 1 - A 5-day grace period will be provided for each transition period.

Note 2 - Separate PIN numbers will be provided for each EDIS account (user).

Note 3 - PIN numbers will be provided via email to each partner/user.

Note 4 - PIN numbers will be sent to customers / partners via email two weeks (14 days) ahead of the next scheduled transition.

Note 5 - Backup email addresses will be requested of each user/partner for account management.

The second update being implemented by the NWS requires partners to change the formatting of their email messages sent to the NWS to include their assigned PIN number within the Subject Line.

Examples follow below.

Current Subject Line Requirement:

- Subject Line must contain 'EDIS Message Input'

New Subject Line Requirement:

- Subject Line must contain 'EDIS Message Input NPNxxxxxx' (where xxxxxx is the partner's PIN number)

- Example: EDIS Message Input NPN032840

The NWS will continue to provide support for its partners during this transition to our new EDIS system. The current planned implementation date for these changes is August 30, 2016. NWS will evaluate all comments provided by July 30, 2016, to determine whether or not to proceed with this change. If approved, NWS will send a Service Change Notice giving 30 days' notice prior to the full of the implementation of the new changes; the legacy EDIS will remain in operation until this time.

Send comments on this proposal to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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