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Public Information Statement 18-18  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
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To:           Subscribers:  
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              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Allison Allen  
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Subject: Soliciting Comments on an Experimental Arrival of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds Base Data through November 30, 2018

Through November 30, 2018, NWS is seeking user feedback on experimental Arrival of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds Base Data issued by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and eastern North Pacific basins.

The anticipated arrival of sustained tropical-storm-force winds from a tropical cyclone is a critical threshold for coastal communities. For example, emergency managers use this information to help determine when to begin and complete coastal evacuations, while members of the public need to know when to prepare their homes or businesses. Once sustained tropical-storm-force winds begin, such preparations usually become too dangerous or difficult.

Historically, many decision makers have inferred the arrival of sustained tropical-storm-force winds from NHC products deterministically, without accounting for tropical cyclone track or size uncertainty. The risk of not factoring in these elements of uncertainty is that communities may have less time to prepare if a tropical cyclone speeds up or increases in size beyond NHC's initial forecasts.

To better meet users' needs, NHC will provide Earliest Reasonable Arrival Timing Graphics and Most Reasonable Arrival Timing Graphics during the 2018 hurricane season. Please see NWS Service Change Notice 18-39 for details on these operational graphics:

[https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn18-39time arrival graphics.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn18-39time%20arrival%20graphics.pdf)

In addition, NHC will make available, on an experimental basis, the base data used to create the time of arrival graphics. This will allow users to calculate the time of arrival for their specific areas of interest. The data will be provided in epoch (seconds since January 01, 1970 UTC) format. A user can convert this date to match their local time zone if desired.

NHC creates the timing information using the same Monte Carlo wind speed probability model currently used to determine the risk of tropical-storm- and hurricane-force winds at individual locations. This model constructs 1,000 plausible scenarios using the official NHC tropical cyclone forecast and its historical errors. Additional information on this product and the underlying technique are online at:

[http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/about/pdf/About\\_Windspeed\\_Probabilities.pdf](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/about/pdf/About_Windspeed_Probabilities.pdf)

The base data will be updated with each new NHC full advisory package issued at 0300, 0900, 1500 and 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

When NHC is issuing advisories, the base data will be available for download at the following file transfer protocol (ftp) address:

<http://ftp.tpc.ncep.noaa.gov/toa/>

Users will need the wgrib2 program to decode the data. Information about this program can be found here:

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/wesley/wgrib2/>

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental product by using the brief survey and comment form available online at:

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

The Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) plans to provide this Arrival of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds Base Data for tropical cyclones in the central North Pacific by the 2019 hurricane season, provided feedback is favorable. Feedback should address the proposed implementation of this product by both NHC and CPHC.

A summary of this information can be found in the Product Description Document:

<https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD-TOA%20Base%20Data.pdf>

For technical and policy 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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