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Public Information Statement 22-12
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Robyn Heffernan, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments until April 30, 2023 on the Experimental Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index (PWSSI)

The NWS is soliciting comments on the new experimental Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index (PWSSI) through April 30, 2023. Experimental PWSSI values will be produced for 116 NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) across the contiguous 48 states for Days 1-7. The current operational deterministic WSSI is based upon National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) single value forecasts. As a new product informed by ensemble information, the experimental PWSSI allows for detailing the likelihood of potential impacts (i.e., "What is my chance of reaching a moderate impact?"). The PWSSI output will convey a range of winter weather impact possibilities enabling enhanced preparedness and decision making.

The purpose of the experimental PWSSI is to:

- (1) Serve as a tool to assist NWS operational forecasters in maintaining situational awareness regarding the possible significance of winter weather-related impacts based upon the WPC Probabilistic Winter Precipitation Forecast (PWPF) input, thus informing the winter watch/warning decision process, and
- (2) Enhance communication with external partners, media, and the general public of the likelihood of potential societal impacts due to expected winter hazards and their geographical and temporal distributions. The experimental PWSSI does not depict official warnings and should always be used in context with official NWS forecasts and warnings.

The experimental PWSSI will be updated every twelve hours at approximately 0200, 0500, 1400, and 1700 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). No communication system changes are required to view this web-based information.

The website is listed below:

http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/wssi/prob_wssi.php

Additional information is provided in the Product Description Document (PDD) located at the link below:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpProbabilisticWSSI_2022-2023.pdf

Comments may be submitted via the survey link below. The survey link will also be available on the WFO web pages:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpProbabilisticWSSI_2022-2023

If comments and experimental evaluation are favorable, the product may be transitioned to operational status on a nationwide scale. User notification will be provided prior to operational implementation.

If you have questions, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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