

KWBC 221135 AAA
PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 19-36 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Michelle Hawkins
Chief, Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services

Subject: Updated: Soliciting comments on Experimental Winter Storm Outlook through
May 15, 2021

Updated to extend comment period through May 15, 2021.

Beginning October 1, 2020 and continuing through May 15, 2021, the NWS is seeking user feedback on the Experimental Winter Storm Outlook (WSO). The WSO has been updated to include a higher WSO probability category of 80 percent, a maximum probability across all time ranges to account for storms crossing from one day to the next, and an additional full 24-hour Day 4 Outlook.

The WSO product will alert the public and NWS partners of the timing and location of a significant winter threat. The WSO probabilities will be displayed when there is a greater than 10 percent chance of exceeding the local Weather Forecast Office (WFO) watch/warning criteria. The WSO is not a substitute for Winter Storm Watches or Warnings issued by NWS offices.

The public will have access to WSO maps consisting of four individual 24-hour snow and freezing rain outlooks. These outlooks will be issued at 0900 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and 2100 UTC (one each for Day 1, 2, 3, and 4, with 12 to 12 UTC valid times). The experimental WSO product will be available at:
<https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/wso>

The period of experimental availability will be October 1, 2020, through early May 2021. Based on the feedback received, NWS will determine whether to make the WSO product operational.

The WSO product is intended to enhance decision support services provided to NWS core partners in emergency management, broadcast/electronic media, and transportation categories as well as the general public.

NWS will evaluate the benefits of using the WSO product to provide information related to hazardous winter weather and as an important tool for the improvement of NWS Winter Storm Watch consistency and accuracy across the Contiguous United States. As an experimental product, the amount and content provided may change, and the frequency of content may vary and is not guaranteed.

Users should tune to NOAA Weather Radio or local/national media sources for the latest critical information and also to local NWS websites. NWS alerts, watches, and warnings are also available on the NWS official website:
<http://www.weather.gov/>

Users should not rely on this service as the primary means of receiving NWS information about hazardous winter weather conditions.

More detailed information about the Experimental Winter Storm Outlook (WSO) project can be found in the NWS Product Description Document (PDD) at the following URL:
https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpWinter%20Storm%20Outlook_2020.pdf

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental service by using the brief survey and comment form available online at:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpWinterStormOutlook_2020

If you have questions or comments regarding the Experimental Winter Storm Outlook, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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