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Public Information Statement 21-57
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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TO: Subscribers:
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 Other NWS Partners and Employees

FROM: Michelle Hawkins
 Chief, Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

SUBJECT: Soliciting Comments until April 30, 2022 on the Experimental
 Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI) Day 4 Extension

The NWS is soliciting comments on the Experimental WSSI Day 4 Extension until April 30, 2022. Experimental WSSI Day 4 values will be produced for 116 NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) across the contiguous 48 states.

The purpose of the Experimental WSSI Day 4 Extension is to:

- (1) assist NWS operational forecasters in maintaining situational awareness of the possible significance of winter weather-related impacts based upon a combination of inputs from the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD), National Blend of Models (NBM), and Weather Prediction Center (WPC) at longer lead times than the current Days 1-3 Operational WSSI.
- (2) enhance communication with external partners, media, and the general public of the potential societal impacts due to expected winter hazards and their geographical and temporal distributions in the Day 4 time period. The experimental WSSI Day 4 does not depict official watches or warnings and should always be used in context with official NWS forecasts, watches, and warnings.

The Experimental WSSI Day 4 Extension will be updated twice daily (09 Coordinated Universal Time [UTC], 21 UTC) using the 0700 UTC and 1900 UTC runs of the NBM. No communication system changes are required to view this web-based information.

The WSSI website is available at:

<https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/wssi/wssi.php>

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

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpWSSIDay4Extension_2021.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/ExpWSSIDay4Extension_2021

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:

James Nelson
Branch Chief, Development and Training Branch
National Weather Service - Weather Prediction Center
College Park, MD
301-683-1493
james.a.nelson@noaa.gov

Sarah Perfater
Winter Weather Service Program Coordinator
NWS - Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office, Forecast Services Division
NWS Headquarters - Silver Spring, MD
Sarah.Perfater@noaa.gov

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

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