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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 20-80 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
200 PM EDT Tue Oct 27 2020

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

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

SUBJECT:      Updated: The Winter Storm Severity Index for  
              116 Weather Forecast Offices across the CONUS  
              became operational effective September 29, 2020.

Updated to correct Product Description Document link.

Effective September 29, 2020, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS transitioned the experimental Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI) for 116 Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) across the Contiguous United States (CONUS) to operational status.

The purpose of the WSSI is to provide NWS forecasters, partners, and the public with an indication of the severity of winter weather hazards and the potential for related societal impacts. The WSSI does not depict official warnings and should always be used in context with official NWS forecasts and warnings.

NWS will update the WSSI every 2 hours at approximately 0100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), 0300 UTC, 0500 UTC, etc. No communication system changes are required to view this web-based information.

Additional information is provided in the Product Description Document (PDD) at the link below:  
[https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD\\_OplWSSI\\_2020-2021.pdf](https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_OplWSSI_2020-2021.pdf)

For questions regarding the WSSI, please contact:

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NWS Service Change Notices are online at:  
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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