Subject: Soliciting Comments on the Addition of U.S. Inland Watches/Warnings to Tropical Cyclone Track and Error Cone Graphics from the National Hurricane Center Through November 30, 2024

Effective on or about August 15, 2024, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) will experimentally provide Tropical Cyclone (TC) Track and Error Cone Graphics (i.e., Cone Graphics) that include inland tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings in the contiguous United States (U.S.) as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The NWS is soliciting comments on this experimental version of the Cone Graphic from NHC through November 30, 2024.

Examples of the experimental Cone Graphic from NHC can be found here:

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/experimental/cone/

The experimental cone will be available with each NHC advisory or special advisory. When there are tropical storm or hurricane watches or warnings in effect for the contiguous United States (U.S.), Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands and available for processing, the experimental version of the Cone Graphic will depict the inland areas in where those watches and warnings are in effect. In addition, the experimental cone shows a solid white area to depict the uncertainty for the entire 5-day forecast period while the operational version of the Cone Graphic has a solid white area to depict the track forecast uncertainty for days 1-3 of the forecast, while the stippled area depicts the uncertainty on days 4-5.

The experimental cone can be found on webpages with the following Uniform Resource Locator (URL) format:

https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphics_at#.shtml?expcone

Where # is a single digit 1-5, or “bin number”, that varies based on the storm order for that season. The number is assigned on a rotating basis by system number such that products for the first, sixth, or eleventh system of the season in a basin are assigned bin 1; products for the second, seventh, or twelfth system of the season in a basin are assigned bin 2, and so on.
When available, the experimental Cone Graphic can also be found through the hurricanes.gov main page by selecting the Cone Graphic thumbnail that will take the user to the operational Cone Graphic page. On that page will be a link to the experimental Cone Graphic.

The current operational Cone Graphic depicts tropical wind watches and warnings as lines along the coast. The operational version of the Cone Graphic will remain available on the hurricanes.gov site during the experimental period for the version of the Cone Graphic that includes inland watches/warnings. No changes will be made to the content or provision of the operational Cone Graphic at this time.

The NWS will evaluate the comments received and will determine any additional need for changes based on public feedback. Please provide feedback through the NWS survey at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpInlandWWonConeGraphics_2024

For more information on the operational and experimental Cone Graphic, please see the Product Description Document:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/55c9b14e87da104b0fa8a60cbb35bc

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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