Subject: Soliciting Comments through September 16, 2024 on a Proposed Alaska Region change to use the Universal Geographic Code (UGC) County Equivalent Format for Short-Fused Polygon Warning and Advisory Products

The National Weather Service (NWS) Alaska Region is soliciting comments on a proposal to transition Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) from the current NWS zone format to county equivalent format for short-fused polygon warning and advisory products.

Across the contiguous United States, UGCs utilize the UGC-county format for short-fused polygon warning and advisory products in World Meteorological Organization (WMO)-formatted text messages. In Alaska, however, these products currently utilize the UGC-zone format.

The proposal is part of a multi-year, multi-phased approach to facilitate greater targeting of alerts for hazardous weather events across the state. This effort has been closely coordinated with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Alaska Broadcasters Association.

This specific issue is directly related to overalerting and would allow Alaska Region to potentially implement Partial County Alerting in the future for both NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System. Multiple live code tests were conducted utilizing the UGC county format within the past 6 months. There were no issues identified with internal and external dissemination systems when evaluated during these tests.

Table 1. The NWS text products impacted by this proposed change are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Name</th>
<th>WMO Heading</th>
<th>AWIPS ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flash Flood Statement</td>
<td>WGAK78 PAFC</td>
<td>FFSAFC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flash Flood Warning</td>
<td>WGAK58 PAFC</td>
<td>FFWAFC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood Advisory</td>
<td>WGAK88 PAFC</td>
<td>FLSAFC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples of current and proposed WMO message formats are provided online at:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/alaska_region_ugc_examples.pdf

Through September 16, 2024, please send comments or questions on this proposed change to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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