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PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...COMMENT REQUEST  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
400 PM EST WED FEB 13 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:  
-FAMILY OF SERVICES  
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE  
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK  
-NOAAPORT  
OTHER USERS...PARTNERS AND NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: KENNETH E GRAHAM  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE...WATER...AND WEATHER SERVICES  
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION CHIEF

SUBJECT: SOLICITING COMMENTS THROUGH MARCH 7 2008 FOR  
CHANGE IN ALL NWS WATCH...WARNING... ADVISORY...  
AND STATEMENT TEXT PRODUCTS

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13 2008 AND CONTINUING THROUGH  
MARCH 7 2008...NWS IS SEEKING FEEDBACK ON A PROPOSAL TO  
DELINEATE THE CALL TO ACTION /CTA/ FIELD IN ALL NWS  
WATCH...WARNING...ADVISORY AND FOLLOW-UP WMO-FORMATTED TEXT  
PRODUCTS /ABBREVIATED AS W/W/A/S IN THIS NOTICE/ BY  
INSERTING INSTRUCTION FIELD MARKERS AROUND THE CTA  
STATEMENTS. COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION HAS BEEN ONGOING  
SINCE SEPTEMBER 2007. THE SHORTER REVIEW AND COMMENT  
TIMEFRAME IS DUE TO OUR DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE.

TO AGGRESSIVELY RESPOND TO THE URGENT NEED FOR A SEPARATE  
SUITE OF STANDARDIZED COMMON ALERTING PROTOCOL /CAP/  
MESSAGES...NWS IS PROPOSING TO ADD CTA OR INSTRUCTION FIELD  
MARKERS INTO ALL NWS TEXT W/W/A/S PRODUCTS. THIS MARKER  
WOULD PROVIDE A RELIABLE WAY TO PARSE THE CTA INFORMATION  
FROM EXISTING W/W/A/S TEXT PRODUCTS TO ENABLE POPULATING THE  
INSTRUCTION ELEMENT IN A SEPARATE CAP MESSAGE. CURRENTLY  
NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES /WFO/ ISSUE W/W/A/S WITH AN  
UNFORMATTED /FREE-TEXT/ CTA SENTENCE OR PARAGRAPH THAT  
PROVIDES APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN CORRESPONDING TO  
THE EVENT MENTIONED IN THE TEXT PRODUCT.

THE INSTRUCTION FIELD MARKERS WILL BE INSERTED INTO THE  
W/W/A/S TEXT PRODUCTS AUTOMATICALLY BY AWIPS PRODUCT  
GENERATION SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS. THE INSTRUCTION FIELD  
MARKERS WILL BE LEFT JUSTIFIED WITH NO OTHER PRINTABLE  
CHARACTERS ON THE SAME LINE AS THE MARKERS. EXAMPLES OF THIS  
CHANGE ARE POSTED ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIFICATION/RESOURCES/CTA.P  
DF](http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/resources/cta.pdf)

THE ADDITION OF THE CTA MARKERS IS A TEMPORARY CHANGE UNTIL CAP-FORMATTED MESSAGES CAN BE DIRECTLY GENERATED FROM THE NEXT GENERATION WARNING TOOL IN 2012. THIS PROPOSAL IS THE ONLY CHANGE NWS EXPECTS TO MAKE IN EXISTING TEXT PRODUCTS TO ENABLE DOWNSTREAM CAP MESSAGE PRODUCTION.

AS A FIRST STEP...THE EXPERIMENTAL MARINE WEATHER MESSAGE /MWW/ TEXT PRODUCT HAS BEEN USING THE PROPOSED CTA MARKERS SINCE EARLY OCTOBER 2007. PLEASE NOTE: MODERN BROWSERS DO NOT DISPLAY THE ACTUAL CTA MARKERS BUT THE MARKERS CAN BE SEEN WHEN THE SOURCE CODE IS VIEWED. A STATIC EXAMPLE OF THE EXPERIMENTAL MWW IS POSTED ONLINE NEAR THE END OF WEBPAGE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/MWW](http://www.weather.gov/os/mww)

USERS OF ALL W/W/A/S ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSED INCLUSION OF CTA OR INSTRUCTION FIELD MARKERS IN ALL NWS TEXT W/W/A/S PRODUCTS BY USING THE BRIEF SURVEY AND COMMENT FORM AVAILABLE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SURVEY/NWS-SURVEY.PHP?CODE=CTA](http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=cta)

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROPOSED CHANGE...CONTACT:

HERB WHITE  
NWS AWARENESS BRANCH  
1325 EAST-WEST HIGHWAY  
SILVER SPRING MARYLAND 20910  
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EMAIL: HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV

NWS NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.NWS.NOAA.GOV/OM/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm)

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