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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...COMMENT REQUEST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1040 AM EST THU FEB 28 2008

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

FROM: ELI JACKS
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CURRENTLY SOLICITING PUBLIC COMMENTS BY APRIL 8 2008
REGARDING A PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF SOME NWS WINTER
WEATHER ADVISORY AND WARNING PRODUCTS

EFFECTIVE MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1 2008 AT 0001 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL
TIME /UTC/ NWS PROPOSES TO CHANGE THE SUITE OF PRODUCTS USED TO
ADVISE AND WARN PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC OF SIGNIFICANT WINTER
WEATHER. THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROPOSED CHANGE IS TO SIMPLIFY AND
CLARIFY THE COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF EXPECTED WINTER
WEATHER HAZARDS.

FEEDBACK FROM MANY OF OUR PARTNERS AND PUBLIC USERS OVER THE PAST
3 YEARS...COMBINED WITH INPUT FROM NWS FIELD MANAGERS AND
FORECASTERS...STRONGLY SUGGESTS SERVICE CAN BE IMPROVED BY REDUCING
THE NUMBER OF SPECIFIC WINTER WEATHER WARNING AND ADVISORY
PRODUCTS. THIS PROPOSED REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF PRODUCTS WOULD
ENHANCE THE CLARITY AND CONSISTENCY OF NWS WINTER WEATHER PRODUCTS.
ALSO THE GRAPHICAL DEPICTION OF FORECAST WINTER WEATHER HAZARDS VIA
THE NWS HOME PAGE AND OTHER GRAPHICAL MEANS WOULD BE MORE
UNDERSTANDABLE.

THE PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF NWS WINTER WEATHER PRODUCTS WOULD BE
ACCOMPLISHED BY COMBINING A NUMBER OF CURRENT ADVISORY AND WARNING
CATEGORIES WITH SIMILAR IMPACTS. FOR EXAMPLE...CONDITIONS THAT
CURRENTLY PROMPT THE ISSUANCE OF SEPARATE WINTER WEATHER...
SNOW...SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW...SLEET...AND/OR BLOWING SNOW
ADVISORIES WOULD BE ISSUED...AND VTEC-CODED...AS WINTER WEATHER
ADVISORIES. SIMILARLY CONDITIONS THAT CURRENTLY PROMPT THE ISSUANCE
OF SEPARATE WINTER STORM... HEAVY SNOW... AND/OR SLEET WARNINGS
WOULD BE ISSUED...AND VTEC-CODED...AS WINTER STORM WARNINGS. THE
NWS WOULD DISCONTINUE USE OF THE VTEC CODES ASSOCIATED WITH THE
DISCONTINUED ADVISORY AND WARNING PRODUCTS.

FREEZING RAIN...LAKE EFFECT SNOW...AND WIND CHILL ADVISORIES WOULD
STILL BE ISSUED DUE TO THE SEVERITY AND UNIQUENESS OF THEIR
IMPACTS. SIMILARLY...BLIZZARD...ICE STORM...LAKE EFFECT SNOW...AND
WIND CHILL WARNINGS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED.

AS ALWAYS SPECIFIC INFORMATION RELATING TO THE TYPE OF HAZARD WOULD BE CLEARLY DEPICTED IN THE BODY OF THE ADVISORY OR WARNING PRODUCT.

NO SOFTWARE CHANGES BY NWS PARTNERS OR USERS ARE ANTICIPATED AS A RESULT OF THIS PROPOSED CHANGE.

THE FOLLOWING TABLES SHOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CURRENT AND PROPOSED ADVISORY AND WARNING CATEGORIES:

TABLE 1 - WINTER ADVISORIES

CURRENT WINTER ADVISORIES	PROPOSED WINTER ADVISORIES
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FREEZING RAIN -----	FREEZING RAIN
LAKE EFFECT SNOW -----	LAKE EFFECT SNOW
WIND CHILL -----	WIND CHILL
WINTER WEATHER -----	WINTER WEATHER
SNOW -----	WINTER WEATHER
SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW -----	WINTER WEATHER
SLEET -----	WINTER WEATHER
BLOWING SNOW -----	WINTER WEATHER

TABLE 2 - WINTER WARNINGS

CURRENT WINTER WARNINGS	PROPOSED WINTER WARNINGS
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BLIZZARD -----	BLIZZARD
ICE STORM -----	ICE STORM
LAKE EFFECT SNOW -----	LAKE EFFECT SNOW
WIND CHILL -----	WIND CHILL
WINTER STORM -----	WINTER STORM
HEAVY SNOW -----	WINTER STORM
SLEET -----	WINTER STORM

A GRAPHICAL DEPICTION OF TABLES 1 AND 2 AND EXAMPLES OF HOW ADVISORY AND WARNING PRODUCTS WILL BE FORMATTED AS A RESULT OF THIS PROPOSED CHANGE CAN BE FOUND AT /USE LOWER CASE LETTERS/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/WINTER/RESOURCES/WSW_EX.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/os/winter/resources/wsw_ex.pdf)

THE NWS WELCOMES PARTNER AND PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THIS PROPOSED CHANGE. PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS /WITH THE SUBJECT LINE: COMMENTS ON PROPOSED WINTER WEATHER SIMPLIFICATION/ TO:

ELLIOTT.JACKS@NOAA.GOV

AFTER A REVIEW OF ALL COMMENTS...THE NWS WILL DECIDE BY MAY 1 2008 WHETHER OR NOT TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROPOSED CHANGE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE ISSUANCE AND DISSEMINATION OF WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES AND WARNINGS...PLEASE CONTACT:

PAUL STOKOLS
FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH
1325 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
SILVER SPRING MD 20910
301-713-1867 EXT. 139
PAUL.STOKOLS@NOAA.GOV

OR THE WARNING COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST /WCM/ AT YOUR LOCAL
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE.

THIS NOTICE AND OTHER CURRENT NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION
STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE 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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Suggest reversing the order of these...the enhancing of consistency and clarity is foremost; may even remove the
collaboration statement as it shouldn't be important outside of the NWS.