

NOUS41 KWBC 281715
PNSWSH

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...COMMENT REQUEST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
115 PM EDT FRI MAY 28 2010

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

FROM: JASON TUELL
ACTING CHIEF...PERFORMANCE AND AWARENESS DIVISION

SUBJECT: SOLICITING PUBLIC COMMENTS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15 2010
ON PROPOSED CHANGE TO MIXED CASE AND EXPANDED
CHARACTER SET IN ALL NWS TEXT PRODUCTS

REFERENCE: SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-28 ON USE OF UPPER AND
LOWERCASE LETTERS IN NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION
STATEMENTS...SERVICE CHANGE AND TECHNICAL
IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES IN EFFECTIVE AUGUST 16 2010

BEGINNING MAY 28 AND CONTINUING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15 2010...
NWS IS SEEKING USER FEEDBACK ON THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE ALL NWS
TEXT PRODUCTS TO INCLUDE UPPER AND LOWER CASE ALPHABETIC
CHARACTERS RATHER THAN ALL UPPERCASE AS IS PRESENTLY DONE.
ADDITIONAL PUNCTUATION AND OTHER CHARACTERS THAT ARE PART OF THE
INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE ALPHABET NO. 5 WOULD ALSO BE PERMITTED.

MANY NWS PARTNERS AND USERS HAVE IDENTIFIED THE NEED FOR NWS TEXT
PRODUCTS /WATCH /WARNING /ADVISORY /STATEMENT /FORECAST
/ENVIRONMENTAL DATA/ TO BE PROVIDED IN MIXED CASE AND TO INCLUDE
AN EXPANDED PUNCTUATION AND CHARACTER SET. THIS CHANGE WOULD MAKE
TEXT PRODUCTS EASIER TO READ AND ALLOW USERS TO CLICK ON INTERNET
LINKS DIRECTLY RATHER THAN CONVERTING THEM TO LOWERCASE OR MIXED
CASE.

PLEASE SEE SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-28 FOR DETAILS ON RELATED
CHANGES TO PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS... SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES
AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES WITH THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION /WMO/ HEADING OF NOUS41 KWBC AND AWIPS IDENTIFIER OF
PNSWSH. CHANGES TO THOSE MESSAGES PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A
RISK REDUCTION EFFORT IN A NON-OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND FOR
VALUABLE USER FEEDBACK.

THE NWS IS SEEKING COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15 2010
AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

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

NWS WILL KEEP THE SURVEY AND COMMENT FORM OPEN INDEFINITELY TO TRACK USER ISSUES AND COMMENTS OF THIS TRANSITION. USER FEEDBACK WILL HELP NWS BETTER PLAN THE EVENTUAL TRANSITION OF ALL NWS TEXT PRODUCTS TO MIXED CASE AND EXPANDED CHARACTER SET.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES AND STATEMENTS WILL BE ISSUED AS USER FEEDBACK IS ANALYZED AND PROGRESS IS MADE IN PLANNING FOR TRANSITION OF OTHER NWS PRODUCTS.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS... PLEASE CONTACT:

HERB WHITE
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1325 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
SILVER SPRING MD 20910
HERBERT.WHITE@NOAA.GOV
301-713-0090 EXT. 146

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIF.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm)

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