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Public Information Statement, Comment Request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1020 AM EDT Tue Apr 5 2011

To: Subscribers:
 -Family of Services
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Therese Z. Pierce
 Chief, Marine and Coastal Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments for Two Experimental Services from the
National Hurricane Center (NHC) from June 1 through November 30, 2011

Effective June 1 and continuing through November 30, 2011, NWS is seeking user feedback on two NHC experimental services.

In an effort to provide users with additional information to enhance planning and preparedness decisions, NHC will provide podcasts/audio briefings and videocasts, when the media pool is activated by the NHC Public Affairs Officer. In general, the media pool is activated by NHC when a hurricane watch is initiated for part of the United States coastline. The experimental services will summarize NHC media advisories. Because the services are experimental, they may not be available in a timely manner and for every event.

Audio briefings/podcasts will be provided in mp3 format, an industry standard which allows the products be disseminated via the Internet. The podcasts will be posted online for users to download. The mp3 files will be provided with Extensible Markup Language (XML)/Really Simple Syndication (RSS) technology.

To subscribe to a podcast, a user would access the XML/RSS file using podcasting software. This software is widely available on the internet and manages audio feeds. Once subscribed to the RSS feed, the podcasting software will periodically check for new audio files and download them to a computer or mp3 player.

Users wishing to subscribe to the podcast should go to:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/audio/index_podcast.xml

Feedback concerning this experimental service is welcomed at:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=nhcpod>

Videocasts: NHC has entered into an agreement with America's Emergency Network (AEN) to provide Internet protocol-based audio and video streaming of its hourly hurricane briefings. This service will provide media outlets not in the local area and the general public with access to these briefings. In past years, NHC has provided hourly briefings to the media through a media pool process that has sometimes resulted in little or no local media outlet access to the briefings when storms threatened lower-population areas or when media outlets could not send reporters to NHC.

The video briefings are available to anyone with Internet access and a web browser supporting mp4 format audio and video at:

<http://www.emergency.info/nhc/>

Feedback concerning this experimental service is welcomed at:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=nhcvid>

If you have comments or questions, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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