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Public Information Notice, Comment Request: Amended  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
1027 AM EDT Thu Sep 26 2013

To: Subscribers:  
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-NOAA Weather Wire Service  
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
-NOAAPORT  
Other NWS Partners and NWS Employees

FROM: Eli Jacks  
Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

SUBJECT: Amended: Soliciting Comments Until April 15, 2014,  
on an Experimental Scaled Predictive Ice Storm  
Aftermath Index at Select NWS Weather Forecast Offices

Amended to extend comment period through April 15, 2014, and to  
add 5 additional participating WFOs (Table 1)

NWS is accepting comments from through April 15, 2014, on an  
experimental Scaled Predictive Ice Storm Aftermath (SPIA) Index.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=SPISA>

Select NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) (Table 1) will  
produce Web graphics depicting the potential impact of freezing  
rain and wind on exposed electrical systems to enhance their  
decision support services.

Current NWS Ice Storm Warnings are issued based on forecast ice  
accumulation only, typically one quarter of an inch or greater.  
The combined effect of ice and wind, which more realistically  
describes damage potential, is not formally set as warning  
criteria.

By using the SPIA scaled index, NWS should be able to provide a  
better understanding of ice storm impact potential to local,  
state, and federal response entities. The potential impacts are  
scaled from 0 to 5 and suggest potential electrical outage  
coverage and duration.

Until now, the NWS has not attempted to routinely quantify the  
impact of ice storms. The use of this scaled index will allow  
the NWS to evaluate the potential of providing these specifics.  
For example, a level 5 ice storm would be defined as one causing  
catastrophic damage to entire exposed utility systems, including  
both distribution and transmission networks. Outages could last  
several weeks in some locations.

Graphics showing forecast index values will be available as part of the routine forecast provided online for the following WFOs:

Table 1: Participating WFOs and url:

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WFO Tulsa (TSA)

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=badice>

WFO Little Rock (LZK)

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/>

WFO Jackson (JAN)

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/>

WFO Nashville (OHX)

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ohx/>

WFO Memphis (MEG)

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/meg/>

WFO Norman (OUN)

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/>

WFO Springfield (SGF)

[http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=ice\\_impact\\_index](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=ice_impact_index)

WFO Pleasant Hill (EAX)

[http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/?n=ice\\_impact\\_index](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/?n=ice_impact_index)

WFO St. Louis (LSX)

[http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lxx/?n=ice\\_impact\\_index](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lxx/?n=ice_impact_index)

WFO Paducah (PAH)

[http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/?n=ice\\_impact\\_index](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/?n=ice_impact_index)

More information regarding the SPIA index is online in a Product Description Document:

[http://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDD-SPIA\\_Sept2013.pdf](http://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDD-SPIA_Sept2013.pdf)

During this comment period, a proactive effort will be made to educate users and partners of the product availability and use. At the end of the comment period, the NWS will make a decision on whether to transition the experimental SPIA Index to operational status. The experimental SPIA Index may also be considered for use at other WFOs and NWS Regions.

For more information please contact:

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National Public Information Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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