

NOUS41 KWBC 241254 AAD
PNSWSH

Public Information Notice, Comment Request: Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
755 AM EST Tue Feb 24 2015

To: Subscribers:
-Family of Services
-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 through April 15, 2015, on
an Experimental Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation Index at
Select NWS Weather Forecast Offices

Amended to change the product name to Sperry-Piltz Ice
Accumulation Index. No change is being made to the product
content.

Amended to add WFO Atlanta (FFC) to the list of participating
WFOs and update PDD and WFO URLs.

NWS is accepting comments through April 15, 2015, on an
experimental Sperry-Piltz Ice Accumulation (SPIA) Index.

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

Select NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) (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 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 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:

WFO Atlanta (FFC)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO Tulsa (TSA)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO Little Rock (LZK)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO Jackson (JAN)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO Nashville (OHX)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ohx/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO Memphis (MEG)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/meg/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO Norman (OUN)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO Springfield (SGF)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO Pleasant Hill (EAX)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/eax/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO St. Louis (LSX)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lxx/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO Paducah (PAH)	http://www.srh.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_November2014.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:

Steven Piltz
Meteorologist-in-Charge
NWS Tulsa, OK 74128
918-832-4115
steven.piltz@noaa.gov

National Public Information Notices are online at:

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

\$\$