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PNSWSH

Public Information Notice, Comment Request: Corrected
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
147 PM EDT Fri Sep 12 2014

To: Subscribers:
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-NOAA Weather Wire Service
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FROM: Eli Jacks
Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

SUBJECT: Corrected: Soliciting Comments from October 1, 2014, to April 15, 2015, on an Experimental Scaled Predictive Ice Storm Aftermath Index at Select NWS Weather Forecast Offices

Corrected PDD url to

https://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDD-SPIA_August2014.pdf.

Amended to extend comment period from October 1, 2014, through April 15, 2015.

NWS is accepting comments from October 1, 2014, to April 15, 2015, 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 (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 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:

WFO Tulsa (TSA)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=badice
WFO Little Rock (LZK)	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lsk/
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
WFO Pleasant Hill (EAX)	http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO St. Louis (LSX)	http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lsx/?n=ice_impact_index
WFO Paducah (PAH)	http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/?n=ice_impact_index

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

https://products.weather.gov/PDD/PDD-SPIA_August2014.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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