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

To: Subscribers:  
- Family of Services  
- NOAA Weather Wire Service  
- Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
- NOAAPort  
Other NWS Partners and 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 Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) (Table 1).  

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


Select NWS 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WFO</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tulsa (TSA)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsx/?n=badice">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsx/?n=badice</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Rock (LZK)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson (JAN)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jan/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville (OHX)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ohx/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ohx/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memphis (MEG)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/meg/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/meg/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman (OUN)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield (SGF)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf/?n=ice_impact_index</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Hill (EAX)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/?n=ice_impact_index</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis (LSX)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lsx/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lsx/?n=ice_impact_index</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah (PAH)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/?n=ice_impact_index">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah/?n=ice_impact_index</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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


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.
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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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