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Public Information Statement, Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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FROM: Eli Jacks
National Weather Service Headquarters
Chief, Forecast Services Division

John Guiney
Eastern Region Headquarters
Chief, Meteorological Services Division

SUBJECT: Amended, Comment Period extended through April 30,
2017, on Lake Effect Snow (LES) Warning Polygons from
Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Buffalo, NY

Amended to add new zones around Lake Erie and to extend comment
period through April 30, 2017

WFO Buffalo, NY, will produce experimental LES polygon warnings
around Lake Erie this winter and continue the polygons around
Lake Ontario per last year's experiment. The experiment adds
latitude/longitude coordinates to segments of the Winter Weather
Message text product (BUFWSWBUF) and provides increased
specificity with polygons issued for sub-county areas.

These coordinates will be added to products containing the LES
Warning Valid Time Event code (LE.W) for certain zones in
western and north central New York along Lake Erie and Lake
Ontario. WFO Buffalo will begin issuing the experimental product
with the coordinates on or about Tuesday, December 6, 2016.

When a LES Warning is in effect for these areas, WFO Buffalo
will also produce a graphic displaying these polygons at:

<http://www.weather.gov/buf/lespolygon>

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) users will be able to use
these coordinates to plot areas most prone to heavy LES. NWS
Buffalo will also provide a downloadable file of the geographic
data on its website at:

<http://www.weather.gov/buf/lespolygon>

The purpose of these polygons is to display small areas of intense snowfall with low visibility at sub-zone levels in upstate New York where the highest impacts to transportation and commerce are expected.

Coordinates and polygons are only for experimental use. NWS Buffalo will continue to issue operational zone-based LES warnings for these areas.

The following WFO Buffalo Public Zones will be included in this experiment:

Zone Number	Zone Name
NYZ001	Niagara
NYZ002	Orleans
NYZ003	Monroe
NYZ004	Wayne
NYZ005	Northern Cayuga
NYZ006	Oswego
NYZ007	Jefferson
NYZ008	Lewis
NYZ010	Northern Erie
NYZ011	Genesee
NYZ012	Wyoming
NYZ013	Livingston
NYZ014	Ontario
NYZ019	Chautauqua
NYZ020	Cattaraugus
NYZ021	Allegany
NYZ085	Southern Erie

The feedback gathered from this experiment will help us provide more precise watches and warnings in the future and will support a decision on whether to make these warning polygons operational.

You can find more information on the experimental LES warning polygons at the link below:

[2016ExperimentalBUFLESPolygonPDD.pdf](#)

Please submit comments from December 6, 2016, through April 30, 2017, via the short survey linked below:

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

If you have questions, please contact:

Rick Watling
NWS Eastern Region Headquarters
Bohemia, NY 11716-2618
E-mail: Richard.Watling@noaa.gov
Phone: 631-244-0123

Judith Levan
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
NWS WFO Buffalo
Buffalo, NY 14225
E-mail: judith.levan@noaa.gov
Phone: 716-565-0204 x223

National NWS Public Information Statements are online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notif.htm>

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