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Public Information Statement, Comment request
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Mark Tew
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Subject: Soliciting Comments by April 1, 2015, on a Proposed
 Change to the Issuance of the Tropical Cyclone
 Public Advisory

The NWS is soliciting comments through April 1, 2015, on a proposed change to the issuance of the Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory (TCP) issued by the National Hurricane Center, Central Pacific Hurricane Center, and WFO Guam.

Current NWS policy states that the TCP will be issued at 2-hourly intervals whenever coastal tropical cyclone watches/warnings are in effect and coastal radars are able to provide reliable center position estimates. In addition, when TCPs are issued on a 2-hourly cycle, a Tropical Cyclone Update (TCU) is issued in between each TCP to provide a continuous (hourly) flow of information on the tropical cyclone location, motion and intensity. The TCU may also contain additional information as needed.

When the center of a tropical cyclone cannot be easily tracked with land-based radar, NWS issues TCPs every 3 hours rather than every 2 hours. The uncertain nature of the TCP schedule sometimes creates confusion with users.

The NWS proposes that the TCP always remain on a 3-hourly cycle whenever watches/warnings are in effect or a tropical cyclone is over land at tropical storm strength or greater. Elimination of the 2-hourly TCP cycle would ensure NWS issues the TCP at standard times during such an event.

Under this proposal, the hourly flow of storm information would not be disrupted; TCUs would continue to be issued hourly in between the three-hourly TCPs whenever coastal watches/warning were in effect and the center could be easily tracked with land-based radar. Because TCUs can be prepared and disseminated more quickly than TCPs, the proposed change would alleviate workflow

issues while the new track and intensity forecast is being prepared and facilitate quickly conveying storm updates to users.

This change will not limit or restrict the issuance or discontinuation of watches and warnings. Warnings for the United States can only be issued on full or special advisory packages, while U.S. warnings can be lowered on either an intermediate advisory or a TCU.

Below is an example of the proposed NHC and CPHC advisory cycle for storms meeting the watch/warning and center-tracking requirements (Guam times will be 1 hour later):

0900 UTC Full advisory package including the TCP
1000 UTC TCU (providing an hourly position update, summary
block of key storm information and other key
observations)
1100 UTC TCU
1200 UTC Intermediate Public Advisory
1300 UTC TCU
1400 UTC TCU
1100 UTC Next full advisory package

Please send comments on the proposed change to:

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National Public Information Notices are online at:

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

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