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Public Information Statement 17-10
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To: Subscribers:
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From: Allison Allen
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Subject: Soliciting Comments through April 9, 2017 on Proposed Changes to
the Suite of Graphics and Geographical Information System (GIS) Files
Accompanying Tropical Cyclone Advisory Packages

NWS is soliciting comments through April 9, 2017 on proposed changes to
the appearance of graphics accompanying tropical cyclone advisory packages
issued by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and Central Pacific
Hurricane Center (CPHC). These changes would be necessary for the NHC and
CPHC to begin issuing forecasts and watches/warnings for potential
tropical cyclones as proposed in Public Information Statement 17-04:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns17-04potential_cyclones.pdf

A potential tropical cyclone is a disturbance that is not yet a tropical
cyclone, but one for which the NWS proposes to begin issuing tropical
cyclone watches or warnings because it poses the threat of bringing
tropical storm or hurricane conditions to land areas within 48 hours.

In addition, NWS is proposing three new Keyhole Markup Language (KML)
files and will issue higher resolution wind speed probability Geographic
Information System (GIS) files. This resolution change will make the data
smoother when plotted, but will not change how it is plotted or
interpreted or affect a user's ability to display the data.

If comments are favorable, the NWS will implement the changes at or around
the start of the 2017 hurricane season. NWS will issue a Service Change
Notice before implementing this change.

Summary of changes:

- All tropical cyclone graphics would use a common map background and color scheme.

- The estimated extent of tropical-storm-force and hurricane-force winds at advisory time would be depicted on the 5-day and 3-day track forecast/uncertainty graphic with the following colors:

--Orange, estimated extent of tropical-storm-force winds
--Brown, estimated extent of hurricane-force winds

Note that users would have the option to toggle the initial wind extents overlay on and off.

- The estimated extent of 34-kt, 50-kt, and 64-kt winds at advisory time, as well as the forecast extent of 34-kt, 50-kt, and 64-kt winds, would be available in shapefile and Keyhole Markup Language (KML) format. In addition, the estimated cumulative wind swath of hurricane-force and tropical-storm-force winds would be available in KML and shapefile format. Previously, these files were only available in shapefile format.

- The 5-day probability of 34-kt, 50-kt and 64-kt winds in KML and shapefile format would be available on a 5 km grid. Previously, these files used 10 km grid spacing. The resolution of the model used to generate the input data has not change.

- The static Uniform Resource Locators (URL) of the latest-available graphics from NHC for a given tropical cyclone would change. A complete list of proposed URL changes for NHC products is on the NHC website at the following URL:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/new-tc-graphics/>

CPHC products are provided on dynamic URLs that change for each tropical cyclone. The graphics for active tropical cyclones can be found on the CPHC webpage: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc/>.

Send comments or requests for more information to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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