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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 17-10  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
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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:

[http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/pns17-04potential\\_cyclones.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/pns17-04potential_cyclones.htm)

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 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 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 Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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