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Public Information Statement 18-29
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Michelle Hawkins
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 Services Branch

Subject: NWS Hazard Simplification (Haz Simp) Project:
 Soliciting Public Comments through November 10, 2018,
 on Proposed Consolidation of NWS Winter Precipitation
 Warning Products

NWS is accepting comments through November 10, 2018, on a proposal to simplify winter weather products. On October 1, 2017, the NWS Hazard Simplification Project reduced (consolidated) the number of winter weather hazard messages (products) and reformatted the product text. The consolidation was generally confined to winter Watches and Advisories, except for the consolidation of Lake Effect Snow Warnings into Winter Storm Warnings in some locations. NWS now is seeking feedback on options for a possible consolidation of all winter precipitation Warning products.

After the upcoming consolidation of all Lake Effect Snow Warnings into Winter Storm Warnings takes place starting on October 15, 2018, (see https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn17-77winter_hazsimpaab.pdf) the only winter precipitation warning products remaining will be "Winter Storm Warning," "Ice Storm Warning," and "Blizzard Warning." To determine if there is support for further consolidation, two options are offered for consideration:

1. Consolidate the current "Blizzard Warning," "Ice Storm Warning," and "Winter Storm Warning" into one "Winter Storm Warning" product, with the specific hazard (ice, snow, blizzard) called out in the "What" bullet of the product text.

2. Consolidate the current "Blizzard Warning," "Ice Storm Warning," and "Winter Storm Warning" into different types of Winter Storm Warnings, with one Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) as follows:

1. Winter Storm Warning: (for) Accumulating Snow

2. Winter Storm Warning: (for) Mixed Precipitation
3. Winter Storm Warning: (for) Significant Icing
4. Winter Storm Warning: (for) Blizzard Conditions

For the second option, the presentation of the headlines could be flexible, a colon can be used after "Winter Storm Warning" OR it could be read as "Winter Storm Warning for Blizzard Conditions."

The survey is available at the following link and will remain open through November 10, 2018:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/winterwarning>

NWS will make implementation decisions based on feedback received. Any changes to the product suite would not take place until the winter of 2020-2021 at the earliest, and a Service Change Notice with a minimum of 75-day lead time would be issued in advance of any operational changes.

Additional information regarding the proposed product reformatting and consolidation may be found in the Product Description Document (PDD) at the link below:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_Winter_Warning_Consolidation.pdf

Haz Simp Website:

<https://www.weather.gov/hazardsimplification/>

For more information, please email:

The Haz Simp team: hazsimp@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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