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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 01-55
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
435 PM EDT THU SEP 27 2001

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS...NOAA WEATHER
WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS...EMERGENCY MANAGERS
WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/ SUBSCRIBERS...
OTHER NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ CUSTOMERS AND
PARTNERS...NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: THOMAS GRAZIANO
CHIEF...SERVICES BRANCH HYDROLOGIC SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: NEW FLOOD OUTLOOK PRODUCT...SECOND STAGE OF TESTING
BEGINS OCTOBER 1 2001

...THIS NEW GRAPHICAL PRODUCT IS NOT AVAILABLE ON NOAA WEATHER
WIRE SERVICE...

THIS NOTICE UPDATES EARLIER STATEMENTS ISSUED ON AUGUST 1 AND
AUGUST 23 24 27 AND 28 2001 /SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 01-40/. THIS
MESSAGE WILL BE RETRANSMITTED ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28 2001.

ON SEPTEMBER 1 2001...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BEGAN THE
FIRST STAGE OF TESTING A NEW GRAPHICAL FLOOD OUTLOOK PRODUCT.
THIS PRODUCT IDENTIFIES AREAS ACROSS THE NATION WHERE THERE IS A
POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT RIVER FLOODING OVER THE SUBSEQUENT FIVE
DAYS.

THIS PRODUCT IS INTENDED TO ALERT EMERGENCY MANAGERS AND OTHERS
THAT A POTENTIAL FOR RIVER FLOODING EXISTS. OFFICIAL FLOOD
WARNINGS AND FORECASTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED BY THE WEATHER
FORECAST OFFICES /WFO/. THE WEB-BASED PRODUCT WILL PROVIDE AN
ENTRY POINT FOR USERS SEEKING MORE DETAILED HYDROLOGIC
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY RIVER FORECAST CENTERS AND WEATHER
FORECAST OFFICES.

SIGNIFICANT FLOODING IS DEFINED AS FLOODING THAT ADVERSELY
AFFECTS ROADS...RESIDENTIAL...COMMERCIAL...INDUSTRIAL...AND/OR
AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND MAY REQUIRE THE EVACUATION OF PEOPLE
AND/OR LIVESTOCK. THIS NEW OUTLOOK WILL FOCUS ON FLOODING ALONG
RIVERS AND DOES NOT ADDRESS THE POTENTIAL FOR FLASH FLOODING.

DURING THE FIRST STAGE /WHICH EXTENDS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO 30
2001/...INDIVIDUAL OUTLOOKS ARE BEING PROVIDED BY FOUR RIVER
FORECAST CENTERS /RFC/ SERVING COASTAL STATES FROM TEXAS TO
NEW JERSEY. THEY CONSIST OF INTERNET-BASED GRAPHICS SHOWING
AREAS WHERE SIGNIFICANT FLOODING IS CONSIDERED POSSIBLE OR LIKELY
AS WELL AS WHERE IT IS IMMINENT OR ALREADY OCCURRING.

OUTLOOKS PRODUCED DURING THE FIRST STAGE OF TESTING ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING WEB ADDRESSES /USE LOWER CASE/:

MIDDLE ATLANTIC RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://marfchp1.met.psu.edu/fop>

SOUTHEAST RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc/fop>

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/fop>

WEST GULF RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/wgrfc/fop/wgrfcfop.html>

A SECOND STAGE OF TESTING IS PLANNED TO START ON OCTOBER 1 WHEN ALL RIVER FORECAST CENTERS COVERING THE CONTIGUOUS 48 STATES AND ALASKA WILL PROVIDE VIA THE INTERNET A FLOOD OUTLOOK FOR THEIR AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.

AN ADDITIONAL MAP SHOWING FLOOD POTENTIAL FOR THE CONTIGUOUS 48 STATES [WMO HEADER: PENJ88 KWNH...AWIPS ID: RBGWNH] WILL BE ASSEMBLED BY THE HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL PREDICTION CENTER OF THE NATIONAL CENTERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PREDICTION. IT WILL BE DISSEMINATED OVER THE SATELLITE BROADCAST NETWORK /SBN/ AND NOAAPORT...THE FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/...THE EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/...AS WELL AS THE INTERNET.

THE FLOOD OUTLOOK COVERING ALASKA WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET.

DURING TESTING...THE OUTLOOK WILL NORMALLY BE MADE AVAILABLE EACH AFTERNOON. HOWEVER THERE MAY BE OCCASIONS WHEN ISSUANCE COULD BE DELAYED OR EVEN MISSED.

IN ADDITION TO THE INTERNET ADDRESSES ABOVE...OUTLOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1 2001 AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

NATIONAL MOSAIC

<http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/nationalfloodoutlook>

ALASKA-PACIFIC RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://akrfc.arh.noaa.gov/maps/fop.html>

NORTHWEST RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/fop.html>

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cnrfc/fop.htm>

COLORADO BASIN RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/fop/fop.cgi>

MISSOURI RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mbrfc/fop.html>

NORTH-CENTRAL RIVER FORECAST CENTER

http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ncrfc/flood_outlooks/fop.html

OHIO BASIN RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/er/ohrfc/fop.htm>

ARKANSAS-RED RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abrfc/fop/abrfcfop.html>

NORTHEAST RIVER FORECAST CENTER

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/er/nerfc/fop>

THE FLOOD OUTLOOK PRODUCT IS EXPECTED TO BECOME FULLY OPERATIONAL IN NOVEMBER. AT THAT TIME...USERS CAN EXPECT EACH RIVER FORECAST CENTER TO UPDATE THE OUTLOOK FOR THEIR AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY BY 4 PM EASTERN TIME AND POST IT TO THE INTERNET. A FLOOD OUTLOOK COVERING THE CONTIGUOUS 48 STATES...A MOSAIC OF THE OUTLOOKS PREPARED BY RIVER FORECAST CENTERS...WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE EACH DAY AT APPROXIMATELY 4 PM EASTERN TIME. THE NATIONAL MOSAIC WILL BE DISTRIBUTED OVER THE SAME SYSTEMS USED DURING THE SECOND STAGE OF TESTING INDICATED ABOVE.

INFORMATION ON THE ROLL OUT OF THIS PRODUCT...INCLUDING WEB LINKS TO THESE NEW FLOOD OUTLOOKS...CAN BE FOUND AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hic/flood_outlook/index.html

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WELCOMES PUBLIC FEEDBACK. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PLEASE CONTACT:

FRANK RICHARDS
HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION CENTER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE, WATER AND WEATHER SERVICES
SILVER SPRING MD 20910
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EMAIL: Francis.Richards@noaa.gov

THIS NOTICE AND OTHER SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE
INTERNET AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

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

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