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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-06
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
255 PM EST FRI JAN 15 2010

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
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OTHER NWS PARTNERS...AND NWS EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE Z. PIERCE
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: ADOPTION AND USE OF /POST-TROPICAL CYCLONE/
TERMINOLOGY BY NWS NATIONAL CENTERS AND FORECAST
OFFICES: EFFECTIVE MAY 15 2010

ON MAY 15 2010...THE NWS WILL BEGIN USING THE TERM /POST-TROPICAL/ TO DESCRIBE WEATHER SYSTEMS THAT ARE NO LONGER TROPICAL CYCLONES. THIS CHANGE WILL MAKE NWS TERMINOLOGY CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMINOLOGY USED BY OTHER WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION MEMBER STATES. IT WILL ALSO ALLOW THE NWS TO MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE METEOROLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF FORMER TROPICAL CYCLONES.

THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION FOR POST-TROPICAL CYCLONE WILL BE INCLUDED IN THIS SEASON/S UPDATE OF NWS INSTRUCTION 10-604: TROPICAL CYCLONE DEFINITIONS.

POST-TROPICAL CYCLONE...A FORMER TROPICAL CYCLONE. THIS GENERIC TERM DESCRIBES A CYCLONE THAT NO LONGER POSSESSES SUFFICIENT TROPICAL CHARACTERISTICS TO BE CONSIDERED A TROPICAL CYCLONE. POST-TROPICAL CYCLONES CAN CONTINUE CARRYING HEAVY RAINS AND HIGH WINDS. FORMER TROPICAL CYCLONES THAT HAVE BECOME FULLY EXTRATROPICAL...AS WELL AS REMNANT LOWS...ARE TWO SPECIFIC CLASSES OF POST-TROPICAL CYCLONES.

AS SUGGESTED BY THE ABOVE DEFINITION...THE NWS WILL CONTINUE TO USE THE MORE SPECIFIC TERMS OF /REMNANT LOW/ AND /EXTRATROPICAL/ ... WHEN APPLICABLE... TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE TYPE OF SYSTEM THE TROPICAL CYCLONE HAS OR IS EXPECTED TO BECOME. UPDATED DEFINITIONS OF REMNANT LOW AND EXTRATROPICAL CYCLONE FOLLOW.

REMNANT LOW...A POST-TROPICAL CYCLONE THAT NO LONGER POSSESSES THE CONVECTIVE ORGANIZATION REQUIRED OF A TROPICAL CYCLONE...AND HAS MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS OF LESS THAN 34 KNOTS. THE TERM IS MOST COMMONLY APPLIED TO THE NEARLY DEEP-CONVECTION-FREE SWIRLS OF STRATOCUMULUS IN THE EASTERN NORTH PACIFIC.

EXTRATROPICAL CYCLONE...A CYCLONE OF ANY INTENSITY FOR WHICH THE PRIMARY ENERGY SOURCE IS BAROCLINIC /THAT IS...RESULTS FROM THE TEMPERATURE CONTRAST BETWEEN WARM AND COLD AIR MASSES/.

THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE SHOWS HOW THE NEW TERMINOLOGY WOULD BE USED IN THE TABLE SECTION OF A TROPICAL CYCLONE DISCUSSION PRODUCT FOR THE LAST ADVISORY ON A DECAYING TROPICAL STORM.

IN THIS EXAMPLE...THE SYSTEM HAS LOST THE DEEP CONVECTION REQUIRED OF A TROPICAL CYCLONE BUT IT DOES NOT YET HAVE ANY FRONTAL CHARACTERISTICS. IN ADDITION THE SYSTEM CANNOT BE DESIGNATED A REMNANT LOW BECAUSE ITS MAXIMUM WINDS EXCEED 34 KNOTS. THEREFORE THE SYSTEM IS MERELY DESCRIBED AS POST-TROPICAL AT THE INITIAL TIME. IN 24 HOURS...HOWEVER...THE SYSTEM IS FORECAST TO CHANGE STRUCTURE AND BECOME A FRONTAL LOW. THE /EXTRATROPICAL/ DESIGNATION IS THEREFORE APPENDED IN THE TABLE TO INDICATE THIS FORECAST CHANGE IN STRUCTURE.

FORECAST POSITIONS AND MAX WINDS

INITIAL	01/1500Z	46.5N	46.5W	40 KT...POST-TROPICAL
12HR VT	02/0000Z	48.9N	45.6W	40 KT...POST-TROPICAL
24HR VT	02/1200Z	52.2N	43.5W	40 KT...POST-TROP/EXTRATROP
36HR VT	03/0000Z	55.0N	39.8W	40 KT...POST-TROP/EXTRATROP
48HR VT	03/1200Z	56.0N	33.0W	40 KT...POST-TROP/EXTRATROP
72HR VT	04/1200Z	56.5N	20.0W	40 KT...POST-TROP/EXTRATROP
96HR VT	05/1200Z	...ABSORBED		

THE NHC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL METEOROLOGICAL DECISIONS CONCERNING FORECASTING OF TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL SYSTEMS FOR THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN...NORTH OF THE EQUATOR AND EAST OF 140 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE.

THE CPHC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL METEOROLOGICAL DECISIONS CONCERNING FORECASTING OF TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL SYSTEMS FOR THE PACIFIC OCEAN NORTH OF THE EQUATOR FROM 140 DEGREES WEST TO 180 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

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NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWERCASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIF/HTM](http://www.weather.gov/os/notif/htm)

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