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Service Change Notice 17-100  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
100 PM EDT Wed Sep 13 2017

TO:           Subscribers:  
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FROM:        Kathryn Gilbert  
              Acting Director, Weather Prediction Center

SUBJECT:     Changes to the WPC Excessive Rainfall Outlook,  
              Effective October 13, 2017

Effective on or about Wednesday, October 13, 2017, at 1500 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Weather Prediction Center (WPC) will change the Excessive Rainfall Outlook as follows:

- Align the definition with existing practice. The product definition is proposed to be changed from:  
the probability of rainfall exceeding flash flood guidance at a point  
to  
the probability of rainfall exceeding flash flood guidance within 25 miles (40 kilometers) of a point.

- Modify the numerical thresholds associated with the risk categories to conform to the new product definition.

Risk Category	Current Threshold	New Threshold
Marginal	2%-5%	5%-10%
Slight	5%-10%	10%-20%
Moderate	10%-15%	20%-50%
High	>15%	>50%

Review of verification over the last 2 years shows that the existing product is better calibrated toward this new definition and attendant thresholds. The attendant probability thresholds are also more intuitive (High Risk is greater than 50%), enabling more effective risk communication. Further, this definition is analogous to the Storm Prediction Center Convective Outlook, thus providing consistency in product definition across the severe weather and heavy rainfall outlooks.

Products affected by this change include the web graphics at:

[http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qqf/excess\\_rain.shtml](http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qqf/excess_rain.shtml)

as well as the following:

Product	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
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Day 1 Graphic	MENC98 KWNH	RBG94E
Day 2 Graphic	MENS98 KWNH	RBG98E
Day 3 Graphic	MENU98 KWNH	RBG99E

Please send comments or requests for more information to WPC Development and Training Branch Chief James Nelson at:

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301-683-1493

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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