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Public Information Statement 15, Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
320 PM EDT Tue May 5 2020

TO: Subscribers:
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FROM: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

SUBJECT: Updated, Comment Period extended through April 30,
 2021, on the Experimental Lake Effect Snow (LES)
 Warning Polygons from NWS WFOs Buffalo, NY,
 Binghamton, NY, Albany, NY, and Cleveland, OH

Updated to extend the comment period through April 30, 2021.

WFOs Buffalo, NY, Binghamton, NY, Albany, NY, and Cleveland, OH, will produce experimental LES polygon warnings around Lakes Erie and Ontario per previous years' experiments. The experiment adds latitude/longitude coordinates to segments of the Winter Weather Message text products and provides increased specificity with polygons issued for sub-county areas.

These coordinates will be added to products containing the LES Warning Valid Time Event code (LE.W) for certain zones in western and central New York and northeastern Ohio, along and downwind of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

When a LES Warning is in effect for these areas, WFO Buffalo will also produce a graphic displaying these polygons at:
<http://www.weather.gov/buf/lespolygon>

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) users will be able to use these coordinates to plot areas most prone to heavy LES. WFO Buffalo will also provide a downloadable file of the geographic data on its website at:
<http://www.weather.gov/buf/lespolygon>

The purpose of these polygons is to display small areas of

intense snowfall with low visibility at sub-zone levels in upstate New York and northeastern Ohio where the highest impacts to transportation and commerce are expected.

Coordinates and polygons are only for experimental use. The NWS offices will continue to issue operational zone-based LES warnings for these areas.

The feedback gathered from this experiment will help us provide more precise watches and warnings in the future and will support a decision on whether to make these warning polygons operational.

You can find more information on the experimental LES warning polygons at the link below:
https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpLakeEffectSnowWarningsPolygons_2020.pdf

Please submit comments through April 30, 2021 via the short survey linked below:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpLakeEffectSnowWarnings>

If you have questions, please contact:

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