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Public Information Statement 19-36
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: Michelle Hawkins
 Chief, Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting comments on Experimental Winter Storm Outlook
 through May 15, 2020

Beginning on or about December 16, 2019, and continuing through May 15, 2020, the NWS is seeking user feedback on the Experimental Winter Storm Outlook (WSO).

The WSO product will alert the public and NWS partners where and when there is a threat of a significant winter event. The WSO probabilities will be shown when there is a greater than 10 percent chance of exceeding the local watch/warning criteria. The WSO is not a substitute for Winter Storm Watches or Warnings issued by NWS offices.

The public will have access to WSO maps consisting of three individual 24-hour snow and freezing rain outlooks. These outlooks will be issued at 0900 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and 2100 UTC (one each for Day 1, 2, and 3, with 12 to 12 UTC valid times). There will be an additional 12-hour valid period forecast for the beginning of Day 4 at 2100 UTC (a Day 3.5 WSO). The experimental WSO product will be available at:
<https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/wso>

The WSO product is intended as an enhancement to decision support services provided to NWS core partners in emergency management, broadcast/electronic media, and transportation as well as to the public.

NWS will evaluate the benefits of using the WSO product to provide information related to hazardous winter weather. Based on the feedback received, NWS will determine whether to make the WSO product operational.

Please note that, as an experimental product, the amount and content provided may change, and the frequency of content may vary and is not guaranteed.

Users should not rely on this service as the primary means of receiving NWS information about hazardous winter weather conditions. Users should tune to NOAA Weather Radio or local/national media sources for the latest critical information and also to local NWS websites. NWS alerts, watches, and warnings are also available on the NWS official website:

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

The Product Description Document can be accessed at the following link:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpWinterStormOutlook_2019.pdf

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental service by using the brief survey and comment form available online at:

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

If you have questions or comments regarding the Experimental Winter Storm Outlook, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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