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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICE 99-15
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
930 AM EDT TUE SEP 14 1999

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE PIERCE
CHIEF...HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHANGES TO HPC HEAVY SNOW GUIDANCE PRODUCTS...EFFECTIVE
1200 UTC NOVEMBER 1 1999

PENDING USER COMMENTS...THE HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL PREDICTION CENTER
/HPC/...PART OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE /NWS/ NATIONAL CENTERS FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PREDICTION /NCEP/...PLANS TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED CHANGES TO
ITS HEAVY SNOW GUIDANCE PRODUCTS DURING THE 1200 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL
TIME /UTC/ CYCLE ON NOVEMBER 1 1999.

THE HPC PROPOSES TO MODIFY ITS 12-HOUR HEAVY SNOW GUIDANCE
PRODUCTS...AUTOMATION OF FIELD OPERATIONS AND SERVICES /AFOS/ PRODUCT
IDENTIFIERS 93S AND 94S. THESE CHARTS ARE ISSUED DURING THE WINTER SEASON
AND HAVE IN THE PAST DEPICTED HEAVY SNOW FORECASTS FOR 6-18 AND 18-30
HOURS...RESPECTIVELY.

THREE MAJOR CHANGES ARE PLANNED:

1. ADD TO THE HEAVY SNOW CHARTS A FORECAST OF ICE ACCRETION ON EXPOSED
SURFACES FROM FREEZING RAIN OF ONE-QUARTER INCH OR GREATER DURING THE
FORECAST PERIOD.
2. MAKE THE PRODUCT PROBABILISTIC RATHER THAN DETERMINISTIC. INSTEAD OF
DRAWING ISOLINES OF EXPECTED SNOWFALL AMOUNTS IN 4-INCH INCREMENTS...THE
HPC FORECASTER WILL OUTLINE AREAS INDICATING FORECASTER CONFIDENCE
/LOW...MODERATE AND HIGH/ OF FOUR INCHES OR GREATER OF SNOW AND/OR ONE-
QUARTER INCH OF ICE ACCUMULATION. THESE GRAPHICS WILL BE ISSUED FOUR
TIMES PER DAY AND COVER TWO CONSECUTIVE TWELVE-HOUR PERIODS.
3. ADD AN OUTLOOK PRODUCT WHICH WILL BE ISSUED TWICE DAILY COVERING THE
NEXT 24 HOUR PERIOD. THIS PRODUCT WILL OUTLINE FORECASTER CONFIDENCE IN
THE OCCURRENCE OF SIX INCHES OF SNOW AND/OR ONE-QUARTER INCH OF ICE
ACCUMULATION.

THESE PRODUCTS ARE PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON LOW ELEVATION...POPULATED REGIONS
OF THE UNITED STATES WHERE SNOW AND ICE ACCUMULATIONS OF THIS MAGNITUDE
CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. THESE PRODUCTS WILL NOT APPLY TO THE HIGHER
ELEVATIONS OF THE WESTERN U.S. WHERE 4-INCH SNOWFALLS ARE COMMON.

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS ON THESE PROPOSALS WITHIN 45 DAYS TO:

MR. DAVID REYNOLDS...CHIEF
HPC FORECAST OPERATIONS BRANCH
301-763-8000 EXT. 7317
E-MAIL: DREYNOLDS@NCEP.NOAA.GOV

-OR-

MR. KEVIN MCCARTHY...DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HPC
301-763-8000 EXT. 7304
E-MAIL: KMCCARTHY@NCEP.NOAA.GOV

IF USER COMMENTS ARE FAVORABLE...THE HPC PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THESE PROPOSED
CHANGES DURING THE 1200 UTC CYCLE ON NOVEMBER 1 1999.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INCLUDING AN EXAMPLE OF THE PRODUCT FORMAT CAN BE
FOUND AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.HPC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV/WW.HTML](http://WWW.HPC.NCEP.NOAA.GOV/WW.HTML)

NATIONAL TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE)

END
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