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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 23-108
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
945 AM EST Thu Nov 16 2023

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From: Stephen W. Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: The Experimental Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index
 (WSSI-P) Will Become Operational on December 15, 2023

Effective December 15, 2023 at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS's WSSI-P will become operational for 116 NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) across the contiguous 48 states (CONUS) for Days 1-7. The current operational deterministic WSSI is based upon National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) single value forecasts. As a new product informed by ensemble information, the WSSI-P allows for detailing the likelihood of potential impacts (i.e., "What is my chance of reaching a moderate impact?"). The WSSI-P output will convey a range of winter weather impact possibilities enabling enhanced preparedness and decision making.

The purpose of the WSSI-P is to:

(1) Assist NWS operational forecasters in maintaining situational awareness regarding the possible significance of winter weather-related impacts based upon the WPC Probabilistic Winter Precipitation Forecast (PWPF) input, thus informing the winter watch/warning decision process, and

(2) Enhance communication with external partners, media and the general public of the likelihood of potential societal impacts due to expected winter hazards and their geographical and temporal distributions. The WSSI-P does not depict official warnings and should always be used in context with official NWS forecasts and warnings.

The WSSI-P will be updated at approximately 0200, 0500, 1400 and 1700 UTC. No communication system changes are required to view this web-based information.

The website is listed below:

https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/wssi/prob_wssi.php

Additional information is provided in the Product Description Document (PDD) located at the link below:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/cffb09431b52b514ee15a7dbe54bcb21

If you have questions, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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