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Public Information Statement 22-26 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1030 AM EST Tue Dec 13 2022

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From: Marina Timofeyeva, Chief
 Climate Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments through July 31, 2023 on the "Rapid Onset Drought" Hazard Type as an Experimental Element Within the 8- to 14-Day Hazards Outlook (Contiguous U.S. and Alaska)

Updated to extend the comment period through July 31, 2023 and change the issuance cadence to once per week on Thursday.

The NWS will continue soliciting comments through July 31, 2023 on the addition of an experimental "Rapid Onset Drought" hazard type as part of the 8- to 14-Day Hazards Outlook (Contiguous U.S. and Alaska) when appropriate.

The experiment that began in May 2022 will continue with one major change: Rapid Onset Drought shapes will be issued and updated once per week on Thursday, coinciding with the issuance of the U.S. Drought Monitor that serves as the basis for subsequent verification. Interim updates to the Rapid Onset Drought shapes will occur only to ensure consistent messaging in the case of a large change in the Week-2 forecast.

More information about the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Week-2 U.S. Hazards Outlook and anticipated "Rapid Onset Drought" hazard type depiction is available in the Product Description Document at the following URL:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpRapidOnsetDrought_2022.pdf

The CPC issues the Week-2 U.S. Hazards Outlook at the following website, which also includes links to Geographic Information System (GIS) data files:

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/threats/threats.php>

The real-time issuance of a Rapid Onset Drought hazard is a forecast of opportunity. Please see the following sample to better understand how this hazard type will be issued:

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/new-cpc-images-review/index-haf.html>

When included in the outlook, the "rapid drought onset" polygon will be included in the current "soils" ArcGIS shapefile.

Comments and feedback on the new experimental Rapid Onset Drought hazard type for are welcome through July 31, 2023 at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RapidOnsetDrought_ExpExt2022

For questions regarding this product, please contact:

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