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From: Kate Abshire, Acting Chief
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Subject: Soliciting Comments on Experimental Tropical Cyclone (TC) Track and Watch/Warning Graphics (i.e., "Cone Graphics") for TC Forecasts Originating from the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) through November 30, 2022

Effective immediately, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction's (NCEP's) Weather Prediction Center (WPC) will experimentally provide Tropical Cyclone (TC) Track and Watch/Warning Graphics (i.e., "Cone Graphics") for tropical depression or post-tropical cyclone forecasts originating from WPC. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) and Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) operationally provide TC Track and Watch/Warning Graphics to accompany the issuance of TC Public Advisory (TCP) products. The NWS is soliciting comments on this experimental change through November 30, 2022.

WPC issues TCP products after NHC discontinues advisories on any system with a persistent surface low pressure area that has moved inland in the conterminous U.S. (CONUS) but still poses a threat of heavy rain and flash floods in the conterminous U.S. In addition, WPC will now experimentally issue TC Track and Watch/Warning Graphics. However, since TC Track and Watch/Warning Graphics will be issued by WPC once coastal tropical wind watches/warnings have been terminated, they will not include the watch/warning element. More details on when WPC issues TCPs can be found in Section 5.5 of NWS Instruction (NWSI) 10-607, found here:

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01006007curr.pdf>

More information on the TC Track and Watch/Warning Graphic, including an example, can be found at:

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnhcgraphics.shtml?#WATCHWARN>

The statistics used to calculate the error cone included in the graphic when WPC issues the TC forecast will be the same as those used by NHC. The annually updated basin-specific error statistics can be viewed at:

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/verification/verify4.shtml>

Like the TC Track and Watch/Warning Graphics from NHC and CPHC, WPC's TC Track and Watch/Warning Graphics will be provided in the following ways when WPC is issuing TC forecasts:

- As a Portable Network Graphic (PNG) file on <https://hurricanes.gov>.
- As a shapefile available at: <https://hurricanes.gov/gis>.
- As a Keyhole Markup Language, Zipped (KMZ) file available at: <https://hurricanes.gov/gis>
- As Representational State Transfer (REST) and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) compliant geospatial web services at: <https://mapservices.weather.noaa.gov/tropical/rest/services/tropical>

In addition, the users of the NHC "Current Storms" JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) file will automatically see the TC Track and Watch/Warning Graphics from WPC included in the file. NHC continuously updates the "Current Storms" JSON file whenever tropical cyclone forecasts are being made by the NWS in the Atlantic, East Pacific and Central Pacific basins. When no forecasts have been issued in the past 12 hours, NHC will produce an empty JSON file. More information about the "Current Storms" JSON file can be found here:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_Op1TropicalCycloneJSONFile_2020.pdf

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental product through the NWS survey at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpWPCTCGraphics_2022

For more information, please contact:

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

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