

## Louis Uccellini - NOAA Federal

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**From:** Louis Uccellini - NOAA Federal  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:44 PM  
**To:** Andrew Stern - NOAA Federal  
**Cc:** Susan Buchanan - NOAA Federal; George Jungbluth; Mary Erickson - NOAA Federal; John D. Murphy; Kevin Cooley - NOAA Federal; Chris Vaccaro  
**Bcc:** louis.uccellini@noaa.gov  
**Subject:** Re: TIME SENSITIVE inquiry from WaPo

Andy: I was going to offer a modification to your suggested reply below but paused when I read in a later email that these were your exact words. What was going to insert was the word "ongoing" or developing" between "other" and "severe". To read "...other ongoing severe ..." or "...other developing severe....".

If you want to stick with original, I understand but I thought your point about the other events was important and I was trying to insert a bit more urgency

Louis

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Dr. Louis W. Uccellini, Director  
NOAA/National Weather Service  
[1325 East West Highway](#)  
[Silver Spring, MD 20910](#)  
[301.713.9095](#)

On Sep 7, 2019, at 8:20 PM, Andrew Stern - NOAA Federal <[andrew.stern@noaa.gov](mailto:andrew.stern@noaa.gov)> wrote:

Susan,

I concur with your assessment. However, it was bigger than just Dorian. We had wildfires ongoing in the west, developing tropical systems in both the Atlantic and Pacific basins and had other areas of thunderstorms to watch. I would modify it slightly. Our mission is supposed to be apolitical.

"NWS leadership sent these directives to field staff so they (and the entire agency) could maintain operational focus on Dorian and other severe weather hazards without distraction."

On Sat, Sep 7, 2019 at 8:12 PM Susan Buchanan - NOAA Federal <[susan.buchanan@noaa.gov](mailto:susan.buchanan@noaa.gov)> wrote:

We may not get clearance to respond, but if Julie approves, I suggest something simple like this:

"NWS leadership sent these directives to field staff so they (and the entire agency) could maintain operational focus on Dorian without distraction."

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Susan Buchanan

Director of Public Affairs  
National Weather Service  
301-427-9000

On Sat, Sep 7, 2019 at 8:06 PM Louis Uccellini - NOAA Federal <[louis.uccellini@noaa.gov](mailto:louis.uccellini@noaa.gov)> wrote:

George et al; Including Andy if John is still in the air: Need to work with Susan and Chris on this one. Louis

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Freedman, Andrew" <[Andrew.Freedman@washpost.com](mailto:Andrew.Freedman@washpost.com)>  
**Date:** September 7, 2019 at 7:49:35 PM EDT  
**To:** Christopher Vaccaro - NOAA Federal <[christopher.vaccaro@noaa.gov](mailto:christopher.vaccaro@noaa.gov)>, Scott Smullen - NOAA Federal <[scott.smullen@noaa.gov](mailto:scott.smullen@noaa.gov)>, "[louis.uccellini@noaa.gov](mailto:louis.uccellini@noaa.gov)" <[louis.uccellini@noaa.gov](mailto:louis.uccellini@noaa.gov)>, "Itkowitz, Colby" <[Colby.Itkowitz@washpost.com](mailto:Colby.Itkowitz@washpost.com)>, "[susan.buchanan@noaa.gov](mailto:susan.buchanan@noaa.gov)" <[susan.buchanan@noaa.gov](mailto:susan.buchanan@noaa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Samenow, Jason" <[Jason.Samenow@washpost.com](mailto:Jason.Samenow@washpost.com)>  
**Subject:** **TIME SENSITIVE inquiry from WaPo**

Hi NWS press folks and Director Uccellini,

This is for a Washington Post story \*\*running imminently online and in print on Sunday.\*\*

On Sept. 1 and again on Sept. 4, NWS personnel received a guidance not to provide opinions on national level social media posts in the media and to stick with NHC forecasts if questions arise about the posts.

Staff understood this to be a response to President Trump's Alabama comments and that they were essentially being told not to contradict the president.

Can you respond to this and explain the reason behind sending these dual directives?

Please send any responses to Colby and myself. I'm cc'ing Jason as well who has been working on this story.

Thank you and all the best,  
-Andrew

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NOAA/National Weather Service  
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Cell: (b)(6)