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Public Information Statement 23-21  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
930 AM EDT Tue Apr 4 2023

To:           Subscribers:  
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              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Michael Coyne  
              Chief Operating Officer (Acting)  
              National Weather Service

Subject: Comments Sought by June 4, 2023 on National Weather Service Service Description Document v2.0 for Impact-based Decision Support Services

The NWS is soliciting comments until June 4, 2023, on an updated Service Description Document (SDD) describing Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS) NWS will provide to its Core Partners (see SDD for definition of Core Partner).

The enactment of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-25) codifies NWS provision of IDSS, making public safety a top priority. While NWS has provided decision support services to key decision makers for decades, this SDD clarifies an increased NWS focus on IDSS as part of our agency mission, Weather-Ready Nation goal, and carrying out the mandate of Public Law 115-25. It provides the guidance and details necessary to achieve greater consistency of these critical services across NWS and provides transparency for external stakeholders.

The SDD describes who NWS will support with IDSS, the level of service provided and our overall approach to providing IDSS to fulfill our mission. The document also recognizes the growing capacity of our Weather, Water and Climate Enterprise partners to provide tailored support for an increasing range of users. NWS provision of IDSS is described in the broader context of Enterprise-wide support for key decision makers in this document.

The original IDSS SDD v1.0 was published in April 2018, and may be viewed at:

[https://www.weather.gov/media/im/IDSS\\_SDD\\_V1\\_0.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/im/IDSS_SDD_V1_0.pdf)

When it was published, NWS identified the IDSS SDD v1.0 as a first issuance that would be updated periodically. NWS has continued to assess and revise guidance for providing IDSS, based on internal input, feedback from our Core Partners, and input from our Enterprise partners for this update.

The draft IDSS SDD v2.0 may be accessed at:

[https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/sdd\\_idss\\_v2.0.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/sdd_idss_v2.0.pdf)

This updated document describes our unchanged definition of IDSS and on whom we will focus our services. As presented in SDD v1.0, the intent is for the NWS to focus on providing support to those government partners who have a mutual focus on public safety and who possess the authority for making public safety decisions and/or where there is an existing mandate for NOAA/NWS to engage with these partners. The NWS plans to work with these partners to understand their operating needs and to become an integral resource available to their operations in support of public safety.

SDD v2.0 includes modifications to the concepts and terminology used to describe NWS IDSS for our Core Partners, but is not intended to identify any change in how we are providing these services today. This updated SDD is intended to incorporate the conceptual messaging and terminology used in NWS internal directives which are being implemented to guide greater consistency in how NWS provides IDSS across the country.

Input on IDSS SDD v2.0 may be provided by June 4, 2023 to:

[nws.idss.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.idss.comments@noaa.gov)

If you have comments or questions regarding this Public Information Statement, please contact:

Wendy Levine  
National Weather Service  
Silver Spring, MD  
301-427-9062  
[wendy.levine@noaa.gov](mailto:wendy.levine@noaa.gov)

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