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Public Information Statement 23-52
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1100 AM EDT Fri Sep 1 2023

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Marina Timofeyeva, Chief
 Climate Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments through November 30, 2023 on the Issuance of the Experimental Modernized Drought Information Statement (DGT) through Weather Forecast Office (WFO) "Drought Information Statement" Webpages and in PDF Format

The National Weather Service (NWS) is soliciting public comments through November 30, 2023 on the provision of experimental modernized DGTs through WFO "Drought Information Statement" webpages and in Portable Document Format (PDF) as a replacement for the existing text-based DGT format.

The DGT product is issued by WFOs (and Weather Service Office (WSO) Pago Pago) experiencing drought conditions, currently in a text-based format. The DGT synthesizes local drought conditions, impacts and outlook. The DGT product draws on NWS and partner-provided drought indicators and tools, including the U.S. Drought Monitor and the NWS Climate Prediction Center's U.S. Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlooks. DGTs deliver localized messaging to key partners, such as state climate offices, agriculture and water resources managers, and the media. A detailed description of the contents, issuance criteria and format of the current DGT text product can be found in NWS Instruction (NWSI) 10-1201:

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01012001curr.pdf>

Examples of the current DGT text product format are available at a centralized, national page at drought.gov:

<https://www.drought.gov/drought-information-statements>

The NWS proposes to replace the text-based version of the DGT with a PDF version that will be available on WFO "Drought Information Statement" webpages, and will be linked from the DGT page at <https://www.drought.gov/drought-information-statements>. The PDF version of the DGT is based on a standardized template designed to reduce the burden for forecasters, incorporate graphics, and enable collaboration amongst neighboring offices. The content and issuance criteria for DGTs will not change.

An example of the modernized, PDF version of the DGT, issued by WFO Austin/San Antonio, at a sample "Drought Information Statement" webpage, is provided for comment:

<https://www.weather.gov/ewx/DroughtInformationStatement>

Beginning September 1, 2023, NWS WFOs will issue the PDF version of the DGT. This product will be issued through November 30, 2023. At the end of the experimental time period, a decision will be made whether or not to make the PDF version of the product operational as a replacement for the text-based DGT format.

Product Description Document:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/3d35792d1bf8f11021dd20eae54bcb47

Comments are being solicited on the proposed changes detailed above. Please submit your feedback by November 30, 2023:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpModernizedDGT>

Additional Comments may be sent to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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