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Public Information Statement PNS15 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
215 PM EDT Thu Oct 26 2017

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FROM: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather
 Services Branch

SUBJECT: Updated, Comment Period extended through April 30,
 2018, on the Experimental Lake Effect Snow (LES)
 Warning Polygons from Weather Forecast Office (WFO)
 Buffalo, NY

Updated to extend the comment period through April 30, 2018

WFO Buffalo, NY, will produce experimental LES polygon warnings around Lakes Erie and Ontario. The experiment adds latitude/longitude coordinates to segments of the Winter Weather Message text product (BUFWSWBUF) and provides increased specificity with polygons issued for sub-county areas.

These coordinates will be added to products containing the LES Warning Valid Time Event code (LE.W) for certain zones in western and north central New York along Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. WFO Buffalo will begin issuing the experimental product with the coordinates on or about Friday, December 1, 2017.

When a LES Warning is in effect for these areas, WFO Buffalo will also produce a graphic displaying these polygons at:

<http://www.weather.gov/buf/lespolygon>

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) users will be able to use these coordinates to plot areas most prone to heavy LES. WFO Buffalo will also provide a downloadable file of the geographic data on its website at:

<http://www.weather.gov/buf/lespolygon>

The purpose of these polygons is to display small areas of intense snowfall with low visibility at sub-zone levels in upstate New York where the highest impacts to transportation and commerce are expected.

Coordinates and polygons are only for experimental use. NWS Buffalo will continue to issue operational zone-based LES warnings for these areas.

The following WFO Buffalo Public Zones will be included in this experiment:

Zone Number	Zone Name
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NYZ001	Niagara
NYZ002	Orleans
NYZ003	Monroe
NYZ004	Wayne
NYZ005	Northern Cayuga
NYZ006	Oswego
NYZ007	Jefferson
NYZ008	Lewis
NYZ010	Northern Erie
NYZ011	Genesee
NYZ012	Wyoming
NYZ013	Livingston
NYZ014	Ontario
NYZ019	Chautauqua
NYZ020	Cattaraugus
NYZ021	Allegany
NYZ085	Southern Erie

The feedback gathered from this experiment will help us provide more precise watches and warnings in the future and will support a decision on whether to make these warning polygons operational.

You can find more information on the experimental LES warning polygons at the link below:

<https://products.weather.gov/PDD/2016ExperimentalBUFLESPolygonPD D.pdf>

Please submit comments from December 1, 2017, through April 30, 2018, via the short survey linked below:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=LESWP>

If you have questions, please contact:

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National NWS Public Information Statements are online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notif.htm>

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