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Public Information Statement 20-55
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1045 AM EDT Wed Jul 15 2020

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

From: Douglas C. Young
 Chief, Digital and Graphical Information Support Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments through August 17, 2020, on a Proposal to implement Partial County Alerting via NWR and the EAS for Clark County, Nevada

NWS disseminates weather warnings via NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) and the Emergency Alert System (EAS). While NWS warnings have become more refined in areal extent using forecaster-defined polygons, these warnings are conveyed via NWR and EAS on a whole (entire)-county basis by each Weather Forecast Office (WFO). NWS has the capability to disseminate these warnings via NWR and EAS for smaller areal sections of counties, referred to as county partitions by the NWS and subdivisions by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The goal of Partial County Alerting (PCA) is to reduce the geographical overalerting of warnings disseminated by NWR and EAS by more closely associating polygon-defined warnings with the county partitions. Once implemented, NWR Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)-equipped users can individually choose the partition(s) of a county for which they will receive automated alerts. Similarly, PCA allows broadcasters to choose the partition(s) of a county for which they will convey NWS warnings through the EAS. Once established in operations, the boundaries of the county partitions are fixed.

At this time, NWS is proposing to implement PCA for Clark County, Nevada. Clark County, with more than 8,000 square miles, is one of the largest counties in the United States. WFO Las Vegas has conferred with emergency managers, state and local government officials and broadcasters serving Clark County on the proposal.

A comprehensive description of the Clark County proposal is provided online at:

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

This website provides details and examples on current warning dissemination and the proposed warning dissemination via NWR and EAS for the following warnings:

Dust Storm Warning
Flash Flood Warning
Severe Thunderstorm Warning
Tornado Warning

For additional information please see the Service Description Document at:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/SDD_PartialCountyWarnings_ClarkCounty_NV_2020.pdf

Feedback on the proposal to implement PCA for Clark County, Nevada in the near term is welcomed through August 17, 2020. Please send any comments or questions on PCA, specific to Clark County, to:

Dan Berc
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
WFO Las Vegas
Las Vegas, NV
702-263-9753
daniel.berc@noaa.gov

Feedback is also requested on NWS plans to expand PCA to other County Warning Areas as part of a national level PCA initiative.

NWS is considering the implementation of PCA in the future for counties with unique alerting challenges, to include other geographically-large or uniquely-configured counties, such as islands. If approved, plans to implement PCA for other counties will be preceded by public notifications by these WFOs.

Additionally, future dissemination improvements are planned in association with the national level PCA initiative. These proposals will be detailed in future Public Information Statements and associated Public Comment Periods from NWS Headquarters.

You may send general comments or questions on the national level PCA initiative to:

Tim Schott
Meteorologist, NWS Dissemination Services
NWS Headquarters
Silver Spring, MD
301-427-9336
timothy.schott@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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