

August 8, 2019

Neil A. Jacobs, Ph.D.

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction  
Performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811  
14<sup>th</sup> Street & Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit the SAB Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) annual report on progress made by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in adopting the Working Group's recommendations, as mandated by Title IV, Sec. 401(c) of the Weather Research and Forecasting Improvement Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-25, signed 18 April 2017, amended January 2019) (the Weather Act of 2017). The EISWG transmitted this report to the SAB on July 3, 2019, and the SAB approved this report at its July 10-11, 2019 meeting.

In the first year (2018), the EISWG did not make recommendations to NOAA regarding the elements of the Weather Act of 2017. Instead, the year was spent developing a process for carrying out its assigned role under the Act. In this second report, the EISWG details a new process for carrying out its assigned role after discovering that the initial process was too slow and reactive. This report also provides two sets of recommendations based on reviews by the EISWG: 1) the use of Observing Systems Simulation Experiments (OSSE) in NOAA and 2) a review of the NOAA "Report to Congress – Tornado Warning Improvement and Extension Program Plan" produced by the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

As stated in the Weather Act of 2017, the EISWG is to transmit its annual report to the SAB for submission to the Under Secretary. Within 30 days of receipt of this report, you are to submit a copy of this report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,



Lynn Scarlett  
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board  
Vice President for Policy & Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy

Attachments:

*EISWG Report to Congress*

*Review and Recommendations to NOAA of “Report to Congress – Tornado Warning Improvement and Extension Program Plan”*

*Use of Observing System Simulation Experiments (OSSEs) at NOAA Report*

Cc: Cynthia Decker – NOAA Federal  
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