




The EISWG Annual Report
To the Congress
As Required by the Weather Act of 2017

Presented by
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Presentation Overview

- Background of the EISWG Report to Congress
- Main Points of 2018 Report
- Timeline for Report Submission
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Background of the EISWG Report to Congress

The Weather Research and Forecasting Improvement Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-25, signed 18 April 2017), in Title IV, Sec. 401(c) of the Act, assigns to the EISWG the responsibility of transmitting a report on progress made by **NOAA in adopting recommendations made by the EISWG.**

131 STAT. 106

PUBLIC LAW 115-25—APR. 18, 2017

(A) communications between weather forecasters, Federal, State, local, tribal, and other emergency management personnel, and the public; and

(B) communications and partnerships among the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the private and academic sectors; and

(4) to address such other matters as the Science Advisory Board requests of the Working Group.

(b) COMPOSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall be composed of leading experts and innovators from all relevant fields of science and engineering including atmospheric chemistry, atmospheric physics, meteorology, hydrology, social science, risk communications, electrical engineering, and computer sciences. In carrying out this section, the Working Group may organize into subpanels.

(2) NUMBER.—The Working Group shall be composed of no fewer than 15 members. Nominees for the Working Group may be forwarded by the Working Group for approval by the Science Advisory Board. Members of the Working Group may choose a chair (or co-chairs) from among their number with approval by the Science Advisory Board.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Working Group shall transmit to the Science Advisory Board for submission to the Under Secretary a report on progress made by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in adopting the Working Group's recommendations. The Science Advisory Board shall transmit this report to the Under Secretary. Within 30 days of receipt of such report, the Under Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a copy of such report.

Main Points of EISWG 2018 Report

- **The NOAA SAB EISWG did not make recommendations to NOAA regarding the elements of the Weather Act of 2017 this past year.**
- The EISWG spent the first year developing a process for carrying out its assigned role in the Weather Act of 2017.
- The EISWG noted challenges affecting its ability to effectively carry out its role including:
 - FACA rules and regulations;
 - Small size of the working group;
 - Limited amount of staff support; and
 - Infrequent face-to-face meetings.

Timeline for Report Submission



Delay due to inability to hold face-to-face meeting and teleconferences during February government shut down; held two-day virtual meeting in March

Tentative Report Outline of 2019 EISWG Report

1. Introduction

State purpose of this (2nd) report. Cite relevant provisions of Weather Act of 2017, as now amended. Very similar to the first paragraph from last year.

2. Overview of EISWG actions since March 2018 relative to the Weather Act of 2017

Challenges of implementing the reactive process discussed in the 1st report; main effort to be on review of required reports from NOAA to the Congress

Describe the few (4?) reports actually received; review of the “tornado” report may ultimately lead to relevant recommendations in late 2019.

Tentative Report Outline cont.

3. The way forward for 2019: Be more proactive. Begin by Identifying key areas in Act.

Started in 2018 when it became apparent that reports would be very slow in coming.

NOAA senior staff spoke at July 2018 EISWG meeting on three key topics (see 5.), followed by the establishment of small working groups to review, comment on, and frame recommendations concerning these key topics.

- 3.1 Hazards Simplification Plan
- 3.2 Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program
- 3.3 Improving Sub-seasonal and Seasonal Forecasts

Tentative Report Outline cont.

4. OSSE report. Responds to request from SAB but we also anticipate formulation of formal recommendation(s) stemming from this report to be included as part of our Annual Report

5. Identification of prioritized areas from the Weather Act on which EISWG will focus in 2019-2020 (June 2019 meeting)

Appendices as necessary

Questions?



Backup Slides



Approach



Review The Weather Act of 2017 required reports or receive briefings of report content;



Convene small groups to review Weather Act reports/briefings and develop a set of recommendations for discussion;



Discuss recommendations with EISWG members via teleconference, email, and meeting;



Draft EISWG Report to Congress and circulate report among EISWG members for review and comment; and



Finalize EISWG Report to Congress.