## INTRODUCTION

Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies, collects a large amount of data pertaining to the water resources of Minnesota each water year. These data, accumulated during many years, constitute a valuable data base for developing an improved understanding of the water resources of the State. To make these data readily available to interested parties outside the USGS, the data are published annually in this report series entitled, "Water-Resources Data—Minnesota."

Water-resources data for the 2003 water year (hereinafter 2003) for Minnesota consist of records of stage, discharge, and water quality of streams; and stage of lakes and reservoirs; and water quality of ground water. This volume contains discharge records for 109 stream-gaging stations; stage for 12 lakes and reservoirs; water quality for 9 stream-gaging stations; peak flow data for 90 high-flow partial-record stations; and ground-water levels for 3 ground-water observation wells. These data represent a part of the National Water Data System collected by the USGS and cooperating State and Federal agencies in Minnesota.

This series of annual reports for Minnesota began with the 1961 water year with a report that contained only data relating to the quantities of surface water. For the 1964 water year, a similar report was introduced that contained only data relating to water quality. Beginning with the 1975 water year, the report was changed to present, in one volume, data on quantities of surface water, quality of surface and ground water, and ground-water levels.

Prior to introduction of this series and for several water years concurrent with it, water-resources data for Minnesota were published in U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Papers. Data on stream discharge and stage and on lake or reservoir contents and stage, through September 1960, were published annually under the title "Surface-Water Supply of the United States, Parts 4, 5 and 6A." For the 1961 through 1970 water years, the data were published in two 5-year reports. Data on chemical quality, temperature, and suspended sediment for the 1941 through 1970 water years were published annually under the title "Quality of Surface Waters of the United States," and water levels for the 1935 through 1974 water years were published under the title "Ground-Water Levels in the United States." The above mentioned Water-Supply Papers can be consulted in the libraries of the principal cities of the United States and may be purchased from the U.S. Geological Survey Branch of Information Services, Denver Federal Center, Box 25286, Denver, Colorado 80225.

Publications similar to this report are published annually by the USGS for all States. These official Survey reports have an identification number consisting of the two-letter State abbreviation, the last two digits of the water year, and volume number. For example, this volume is identified as the "U.S. Geological Survey Water-Data Report MN-03-1." For archiving and general distribution, the reports for 1971-74 water years also are identified as water-data reports. These water-data reports are for sale in paper copy or in microfiche by the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Virginia 22161.

Additional information, including current prices, for ordering specific reports may be obtained from the District Chief at the address given on the back of the title page or by telephone (763) 783-3100.

## COOPERATION

The USGS and agencies of the State of Minnesota have had cooperative agreements for the systematic collection of streamflow records since 1909, for ground-water levels since 1948, and for water-quality records since 1952. Organizations that assisted in collecting data through cooperative agreement with the USGS are:

— Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
— Minnesota Department of Transportation
— Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
— Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council
— Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission
— Red River Watershed Management Board
— City of Rochester
— City of Grand Forks
— Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council
— Prairie Island Indian Community
— City of Mankato
— Prairie Country Resource Conservation District
— White Earth Reservation Tribal Council
— High Island Creek Clean Water Partnership

Assistance in the form of funds or services was given by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of State, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Other organizations that supplied data are acknowledged in station descriptions.

## SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

### Precipitation

Most of Minnesota received normal to above normal precipitation (normal being the statistical median based on data from 1971-2000) during the 2003 water year (figs. 1 and 2). Southeast Minnesota was greater than 7 inches below normal while east-central Minnesota was 1.4 inches below normal. State aggregate totals for the water year were 4.5 inches below normal. Precipitation totals, unless otherwise stated, are aggregates for the state, or for the nine climatic divisions. These include the northwest, north-central, northeast, west-central, central, east-central, southwest, south-central, and southeast divisions.

Precipitation totals for the first quarter, October 1 to December 31, 2002, ranged from 1.7 inches in the northwest to 4.5 inches in the central parts of the state. Departures from normal ranged from -1.9 inches in the north-central to -0.4 inches in the central part of the state.

Precipitation for the second quarter, January 1 to March 31, 2003, was again below normal for the entire state. The largest deviations were in the north-central and northeast parts of the state, which were approximately 1.7 inches below normal. Statewide, the average was 1.4 inches below normal.

The third quarter, April 1 to June 30, 2003, was the only quarter with precipitation totals above normal either for the state as an aggregate or in any of the nine climate divisions. Statewide, the total was 1.0 inch above normal while in the east-central part of the state, the total was 4.4 inches above normal. The northwest, west-central, central, southwest, and south-central parts of the state were below normal.

The fourth quarter, July 1 to September 30, 2003, precipitation totals were below normal for all nine climate divisions in the state. The state aggregate was about 3 inches below normal with individual divisions ranging from

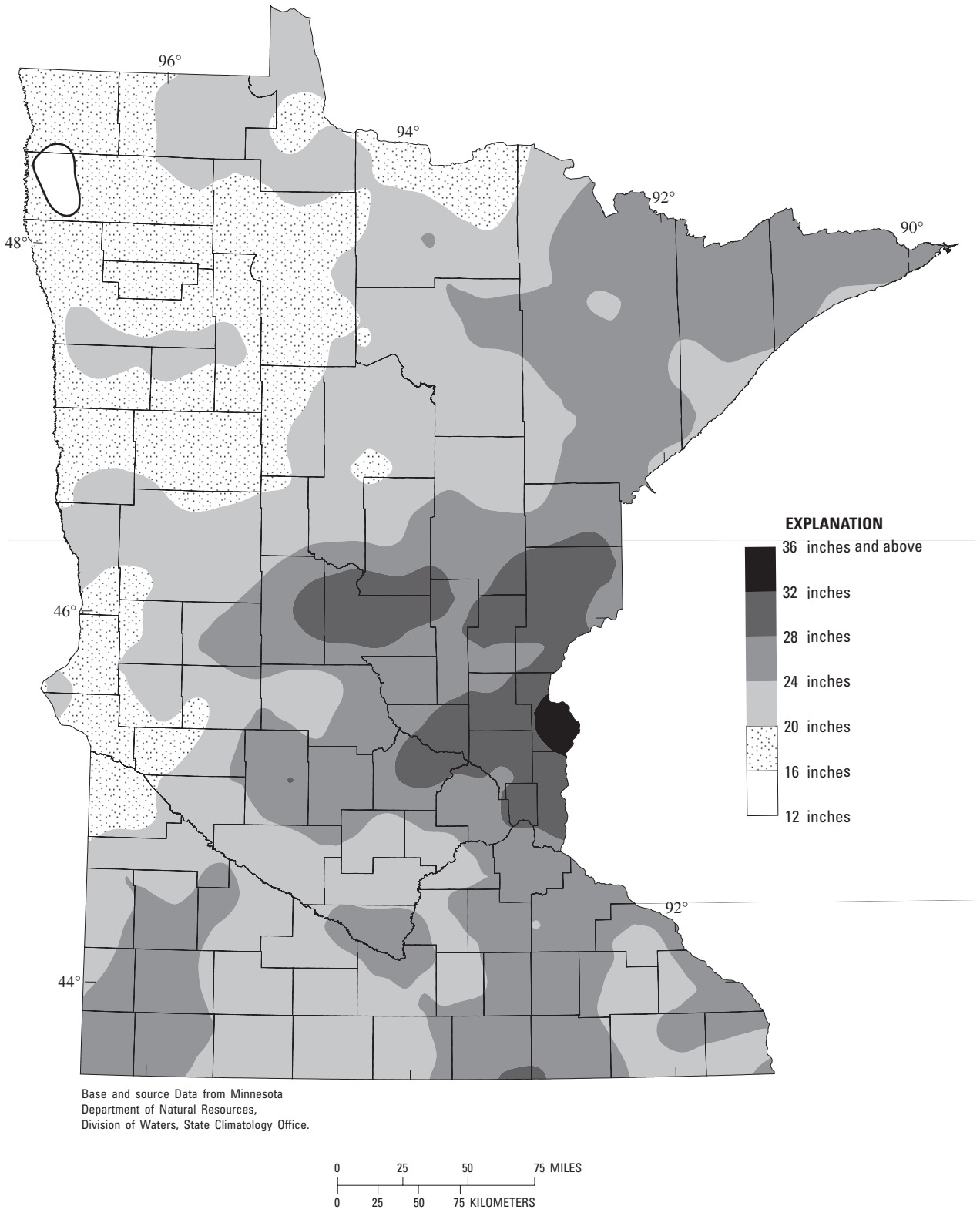



**Figure 1.** Precipitation, in inches, during 2003 water year, in Minnesota.

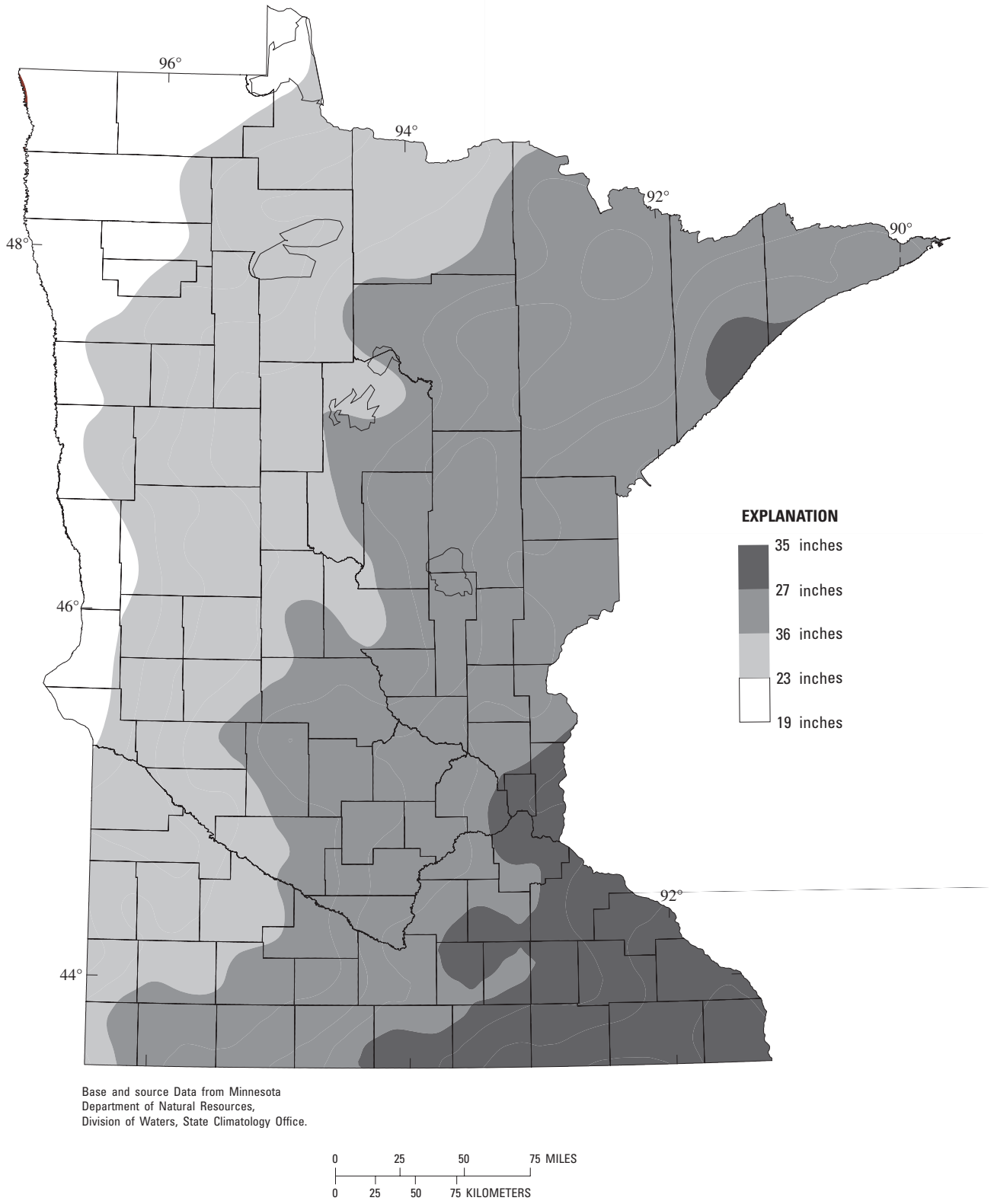



**Figure 2.** Average annual precipitation, in inches, for 30-year period, 1971-2000, in Minnesota.

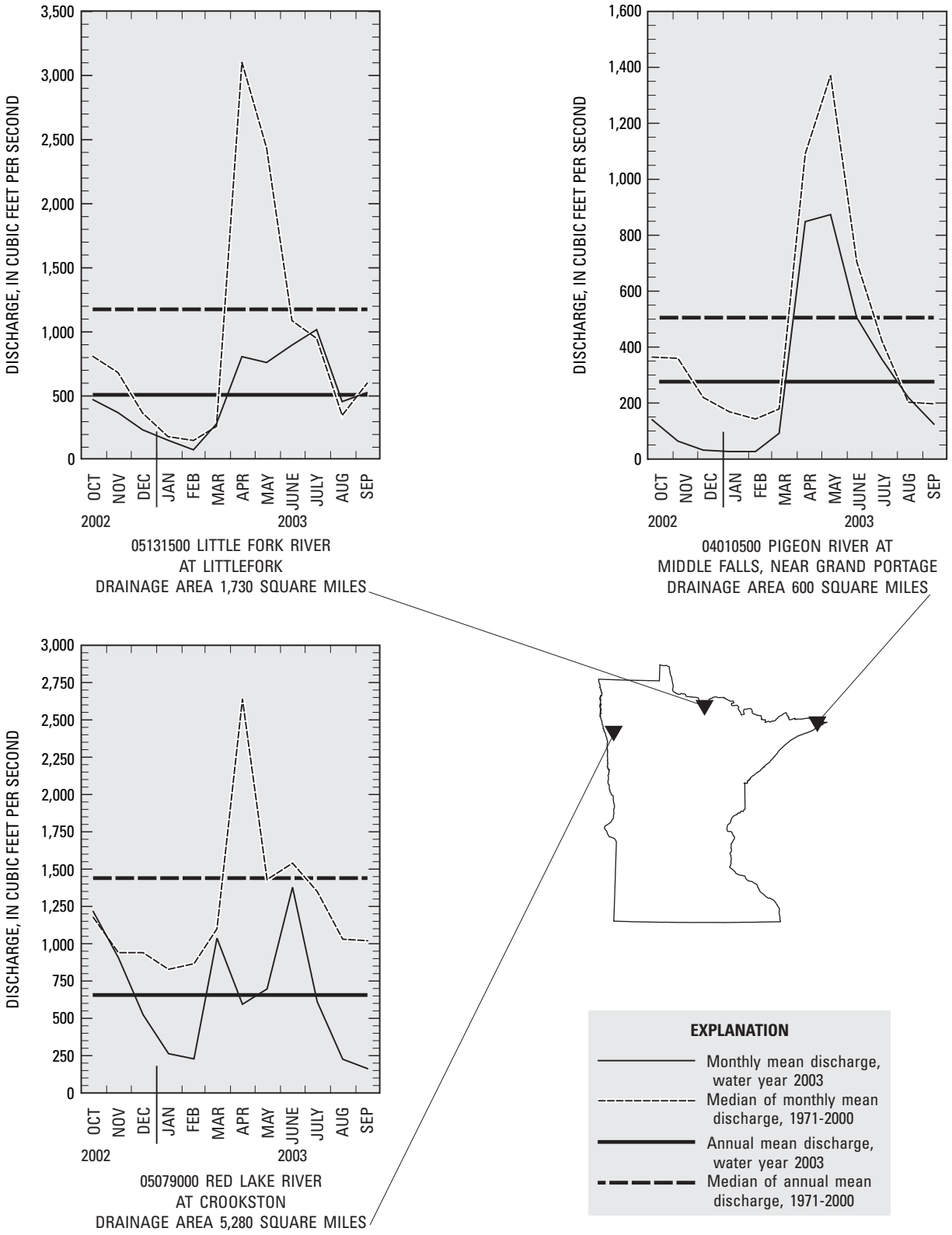
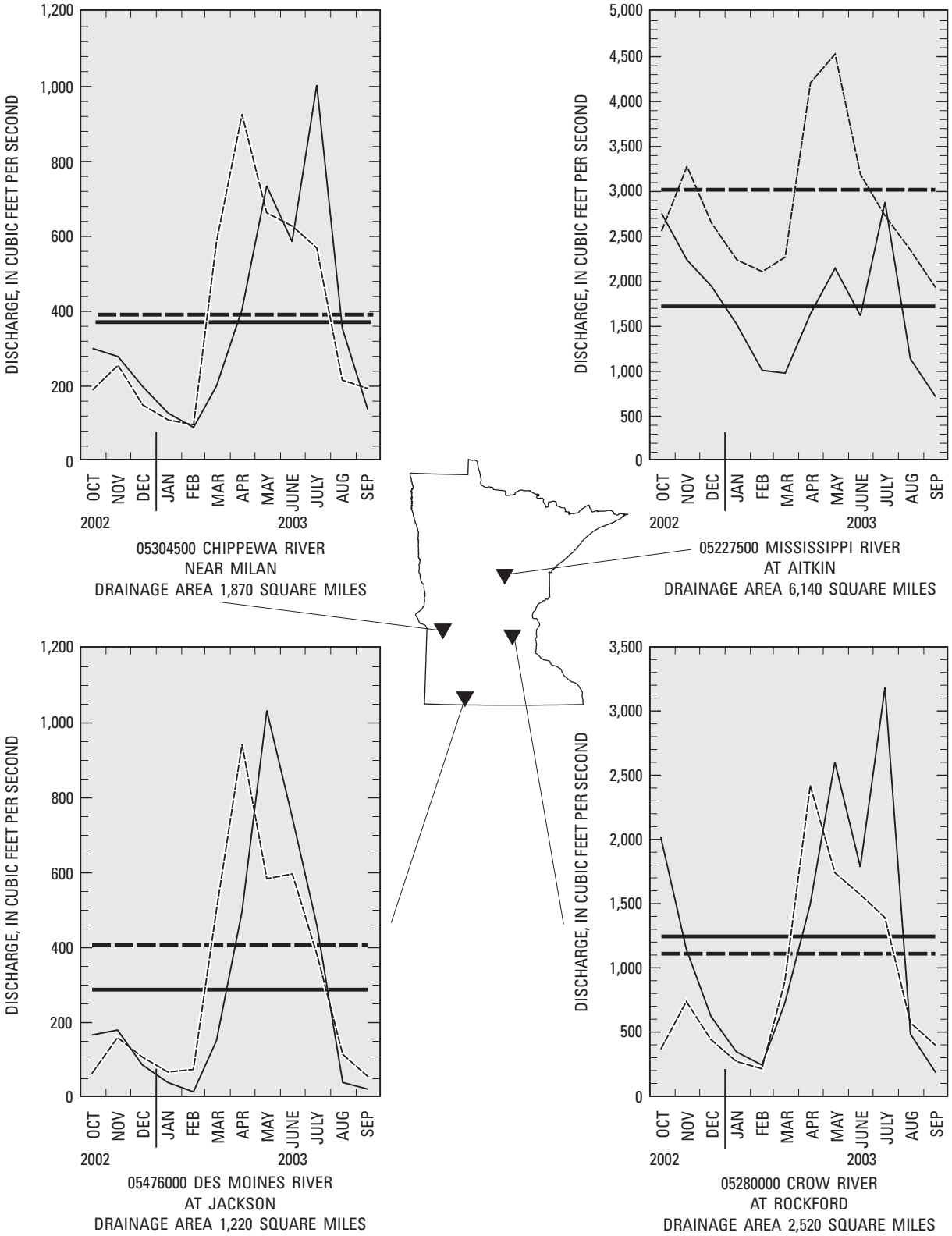



**Figure 3.** Comparison of mean discharge for the 2003 water year with the median




of mean discharges for 1971-2000 at seven long-term representative gaging stations.

-0.6 to -6.1 inches below normal. For some climatological reporting stations this quarter ranked among the driest on record.

Precipitation data not derived from figures 1 and 2 were obtained through the World Wide Web from the Minnesota State Climatology Office at: http://climate.umn.edu/ or from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center at: http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu/index.html.

## Surface Water

Figure 3 shows monthly-mean and annual-mean discharges for water year 2003 compared to normal (median of monthly-mean discharges for the period 1971-2000) for 7 streamflow gaging stations: Little Fork River at Littlefork, Pigeon River at Middle Falls, Red Lake River at Crookston, Chippewa River near Milan, Mississippi River at Aitkin, Des Moines River at Jackson, and Crow River at Rockford. These stations are located in the following basins—Lake Superior, Red River of the North, Lake of the Woods, and the upper Mississippi River.

Monthly-mean streamflows were at or below normal for the entire water year for four of the seven stations listed. These included Little Fork River at Littlefork, Pigeon River at Middle Falls, Red Lake River at Crookston, and Mississippi River at Aitkin. Flows ranged from near normal to from one-half to one-fifth of normal depending on station and time of year. These stations are in areas of the state that were not only affected by the below normal precipitation of 2003, but were also north of the significant rainfalls that occurred in the state in June 2003.

Flows for the remaining three stations, Chippewa River near Milan, Des Moines River at Jackson, and Crow River at Rockford, typically were near normal for the entire water year. The Des Moines River flows were nearly 200 percent of normal during May and slightly above normal during June. Streamflows for Chippewa River near Milan and Crow River at Rockford were near normal except for the months of May, June, and July, which ranged from just above normal during May to about 200 percent of normal during July. The heavy rains during late June (see Precipitation) contributed to the higher flows during July. However, by August streamflows for these three stations returned to the normal range.

With respect to stream-gaging stations with 10 or more years of record, none recorded peaks of record. The Long Prairie River at Long Prairie recorded the third highest streamflow of record on June 26th. This streamflow (2,570 $ft^3/s$) had a 25-year recurrence interval that was directly attributed to the heavy rains that occurred from June 22 to 25. Some of the greatest precipitation totals recorded in the state from these precipitation events occurred in the Long Prairie watershed.

## Ground-Water Levels

This report includes levels from three ground-water wells, all located in surficial-sand and gravel aquifers. All three wells are measured approximately monthly by observers and/or USGS personnel. The wells in Beltrami and Morrison Counties are also equipped with continuous-water-level recorders. The two levels in northern Minnesota, in Beltrami and Itasca Counties generally showed declining water levels throughout the water year. Water levels dropped from just under 1 foot to greater than 2 feet, respectively. The well in Morrison County, located in central Minnesota, had declining water levels until June, when levels rose by nearly 3 feet, which was about the same as the declines in the previous 7 months combined.

The Beltrami and Morrison County Wells are equipped with telemetry so near real-time water levels can now be observed on the World Wide Web at: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/mn/nwis/current/?type=gw&group_key=county.

## Downstream Order System and Station Number

Since October 1, 1950, the order of listing hydrologic-station records in USGS reports is in a downstream direction along the main stream. All stations on a tributary entering upstream from a main stream station are listed before that station. A station on a tributary that enters between two mainstream sections is listed between them. A similar order is followed by listing stations on first rank, second rank, and other order ranks of tributaries. The rank of any tributary on which a station is situated with respect to the stream to which it is immediately tributary is indicated by an indentation in a list of stations in front of the report. Each indentation represents one rank. This downstream order and system of indention show which stations are on tributaries between any two stations and the rank of the tributary on which each station is situated.

As an added means of identification, each hydrologic station and partial-record station has been assigned a station number. These are in the same downstream order in this report. In assigning station numbers, no distinction is made between partial-record stations and other stations; therefore, the station number for a partial-record station indicates downstream-order position in a list made up of both types of stations. Gaps are left in the series of numbers to allow for new stations that may be established; hence, the numbers are not consecutive. The complete eight-digit number for each station such as 05041000, which appears just to the left of the station name, includes the two-digit part number “05” plus the six-digit downstream order number "041000." In areas of high station density, an additional two digits may be added to the station identification number to yield a 10-digit number. The stations are numbered in downstream order as previously described between the stations of consecutive 8-digit numbers.

## Numbering System for Wells and Miscellaneous Sites

The eight-digit downstream order station numbers are not assigned to wells and miscellaneous sites where only occasional water-quality samples or discharge measurements are taken.

The well and miscellaneous site numbering system of the USGS is based on the grid system of latitude and longitude. The system provides the geographic location of the well or miscellaneous site and a unique number for each site. The number consists of 15 digits. The first six digits denote the degrees, minutes, and seconds of latitude, the next seven digits denote degrees, minutes, and seconds of longitude, and the last two digits (assigned sequentially) identify the wells or other sites within a one-second grid. See figure 4. The numbering system used to define the location of data collection sites is based on the Federal system of land subdivision (township, range, and section). The first number of the site location indicates the township (the N after the township number is an abbreviation for north); the second, the range (the W after the range number is an abbreviation for west); and the third the section. Uppercase letters after the section number indicate location within the section; the first letter denotes the 160-acre tract, the second the 40-acre tract, and the third the 10-acre tract. The number of uppercase letters indicates accuracy of the location number. For example, if a point can be located within a 10-acre tract, three uppercase letters are shown in the location number. The number T142NR38W22DDC indicates the site is located in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, section 22, township 142 north, range 38 west.

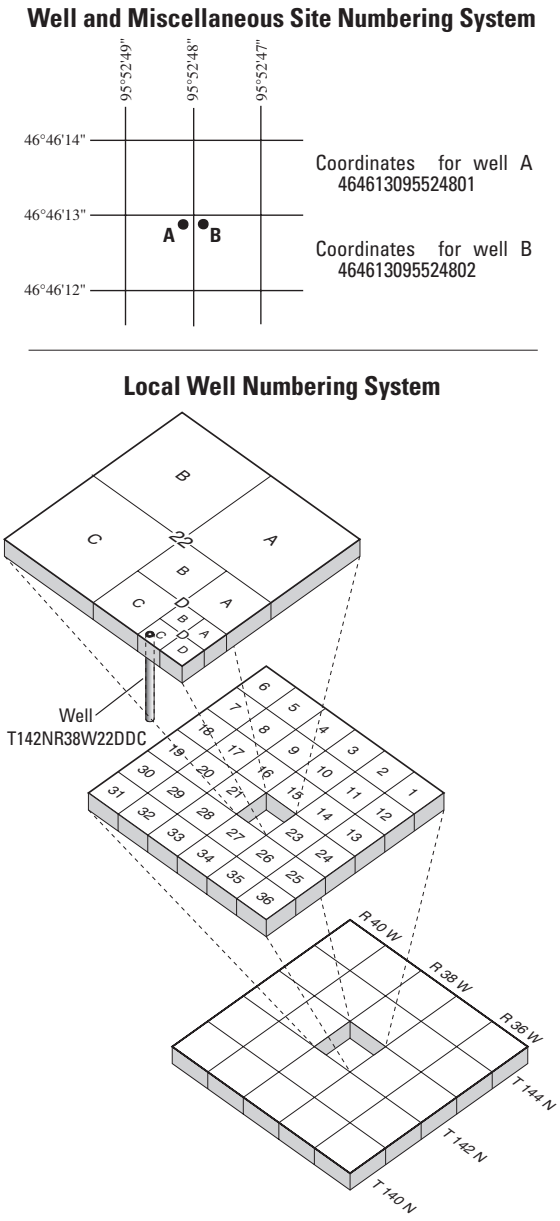



**Figure 4.** Example of system for numbering wells.

RECORDS OF STAGE AND WATER DISCHARGE

Records of stage and water discharge may be complete or partial. Complete records of discharge are those obtained using a continuous stage-recording device through which either instantaneous or mean-daily discharge may be computed for any time, or any period of time, during the period of record. Complete records of lake or reservoir content, similarly, are those for which stage or content may be computed or estimated with reasonable accuracy for any time, or period of time. They may be obtained using a continuous stage-recording device, but need not be. Because daily-mean discharges and end-of-day contents commonly are published for such stations, they are referred to as "daily stations."

By contrast, partial records are obtained through discrete measurements without using a continuous stage-recording device and pertain only to a few flow characteristics, or perhaps only one. The nature of the partial record is indicated by table titles such as "High-flow partial records," or "Low-flow partial records." Records of miscellaneous discharge measurements or of measurements from special studies, such as low-flow seepage studies, may be considered as partial records, but they are presented separately in this report. Location of all continuous-record, surface-water-quality, and high-flow partial-record stations for which data are given in this report are shown in figures 5, 6, and 7.

SPECIAL NETWORKS AND PROGRAMS

**Hydrologic Benchmark Network** is a network of 61 sites in small drainage basins in 39 states that was established in 1963 to provide consistent streamflow data representative of undeveloped watersheds nationwide, and from which data could be analyzed on a continuing basis for use in comparison and contrast with conditions observed in basins more obviously affected by human activities. At selected sites, water-quality information is being gathered on major ions and nutrients, primarily to assess the effects of acid deposition on stream chemistry. Additional information on the Hydrologic Benchmark Program may be accessed from http://water.usgs.gov/hbn/.

**National Stream-Quality Accounting Network** (NASQAN) is a network of sites used to monitor the water quality of large rivers within the Nation's largest river basins. From 1995 through 1999, a network of approximately 40 stations was operated in the Mississippi, Columbia, Colorado, and Rio Grande River Basins. For the period 2000 through 2004, sampling was reduced to a few index stations on the Colorado and Columbia Rivers so that a network of 5 stations could be implemented on the Yukon River. Samples are collected with sufficient frequency that the flux of a wide range of constituents can be estimated. The objective of NASQAN is to characterize the water quality of these large rivers by measuring concentration and mass transport of a wide range of dissolved and suspended constituents, including nutrients, major ions, dissolved and sediment-bound heavy metals, common pesticides, and inorganic and organic forms of carbon. This information will be used (1) to describe the long-term trends and changes in concentration and transport of these constituents; (2) to test findings of the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program; (3) to characterize processes unique to large-river systems such as storage and re-mobilization of sediments and associated contaminants; and (4) to refine existing estimates of off-continent transport of water, sediment, and chemicals for assessing human effects on the world's oceans and for determining global cycles of carbon, nutrients, and other chemicals. Additional information about the NASQAN Program may be accessed from http://water.usgs.gov/nasqan/.

**The National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network** (NADP/NTN) is a network of monitoring sites that provide continuous measurement and assessment of the chemical constituents in precipita-

tion throughout the United States. As the lead Federal agency, the USGS works together with over 100 organizations to provide a long-term, spatial and temporal record of atmospheric deposition generated from this network of 250 precipitation-chemistry monitoring sites. The USGS supports 74 of these 250 sites. This long-term, nationally consistent monitoring program, coupled with ecosystem research, provides critical information toward a national scorecard to evaluate the effectiveness of ongoing and future regulations intended to reduce atmospheric emissions and subsequent impacts to the Nation's land and water resources. Reports and other information on the NADP/NTN Program, as well as data from the individual sites, may be accessed from http://bqs.usgs.gov/acidrain/.

**The National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program** of the USGS is a long-term program with goals to describe the status and trends of water-quality conditions for a large, representative part of the Nation's ground- and surface-water resources; to provide an improved understanding of the primary natural and human factors affecting these observed conditions and trends; and to provide information that supports development and evaluation of management, regulatory, and monitoring decisions by other agencies.

Assessment activities are being conducted in 42 study units (major watersheds and aquifer systems) that represent a wide range of environmental settings nationwide and that account for a large percentage of the Nation's water use. A wide array of chemical constituents will be measured in ground water, surface water, streambed sediments, and fish tissues. The coordinated application of comparative hydrologic studies at a wide range of spatial and temporal scales will provide information for decision making by water-resources managers and a foundation for aggregation and comparison of findings to address water-quality issues of regional and national interest.

Communication and coordination between USGS personnel and other local, State, and Federal interests are critical components of the NAWQA Program. Each study unit has a local liaison committee consisting of representatives from key Federal, State, and local water resources agencies, Indian nations, and universities in the study unit. Liaison committees typically meet semiannually to discuss their information needs, monitoring plans and progress, desired information products, and opportunities to collaborate efforts among the agencies. Additional information about the NAWQA Program can be found at http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa.

**The USGS National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP)** is a long-term program with goals to provide framework streamflow data across the Nation. Included in the program are creation of a permanent Federally funded streamflow network, research on the nature of streamflow, regional assessments of streamflow data and data bases, and upgrades in the streamflow information delivery systems. Additional information about NSIP may be accessed from http://water.usgs.gov/nsip/.

## EXPLANATION OF STAGE- AND WATER-DISCHARGE RECORDS

### Data Collection and Computation

The data obtained at a complete-record gaging station on a stream or canal consist of a continuous record of stage, individual measurements of discharge throughout a range of stages, and notations regarding factors that may affect the relation between stage and discharge. These data, together with supplemental information, such as weather records, are used to compute daily discharges. The data obtained at a complete-record gaging station on a lake or reservoir consist of a record of stage and of notations regarding factors that may affect the relation between stage and lake content. These data are used with stage-area and stage-capacity curves or tables to compute water-surface areas and lake storage.

Records of stage are obtained with recorders that encode stage values at selected time intervals and stored on a variety of media. Measurements of discharge are made with current and acoustic meters using methods adapted by the USGS as a result of experience accumulated since 1880. These methods are described in standard textbooks, in U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 2175, and in U.S. Geological Survey Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations (TWRI), book 3, chapter A6.

In computing discharge records, results of individual measurements are plotted against the corresponding stages, and stage-discharge relation curves are then constructed. From these curves, rating tables indicating the approximate discharge for any stage within the range of the measurements are prepared. If it is necessary to define extremes of discharge outside the range of current-meter measurements, the curves are extended using: (1) logarithmic-plotting; (2) velocity-area studies; (3) results of indirect measurements of peak discharge, such as slope-area or contracted-opening measurements, and computations of flow-over-dams or weirs; or (4) step-backwater techniques.

Daily-mean discharges are computed by applying the daily-mean stages (gage heights) to the stage-discharge curves or tables. If the stage-discharge relation is subject to change because of frequent or continual change in the physical features that form the control, the daily-mean discharge is determined by the shifting-control method, in which correction factors based on the individual discharge measurements and notes of the personnel making the measurements are applied to the gage heights before the discharges are determined from the curves or tables. This shifting-control method also is used if the stage-discharge relation is changed temporarily because of aquatic growth or debris on the control. For some stations, formation of ice in the winter may so obscure the stage-discharge relations so that daily-mean discharges must be estimated from other information such as temperature and precipitation records, notes of observations, and records for other stations in the same or nearby basins for comparable periods.

At some stream-gaging stations the stage-discharge relation is affected by the backwater from reservoirs, tributary streams, or other sources. This necessitates the use of the slope method in which the slope or fall in a reach of the stream is a factor in computing discharge. The slope or fall is obtained by means of an auxiliary gage set at some distance from the base gage. At some stations the stage-discharge relation is affected by changing stage. At these stations the rate of change in stage is used as a factor in computing discharge.

In computing records of lake or reservoir contents, it is necessary to have available from surveys, curves or tables defining the relation of stage and content. The application of stage to the stage-content curves or tables gives the contents from which daily, monthly, or yearly changes then are determined. If the stage-content relation changes because of deposition of sediment in a lake or reservoir, periodic resurveys may be necessary to redefine the relation. Even when this is done, the contents computed may become increasingly in error as time since the last survey increases. Discharge over lake or reservoir spillways are computed from stage-discharge relations much as other stream discharges are computed.

For some gaging stations there are periods when no gage-height record is obtained, or the recorded gage height is so faulty that it cannot be used to compute daily discharge or contents. For such periods, the daily discharges are estimated from the recorded range in stage, previous or following record, discharge measurements, weather records, and comparison with other station

records from the same or nearby basins. Likewise, daily contents may be estimated from operator's logs, previous or following record, inflow-outflow studies, and other information. Information explaining how estimated daily-discharge values are identified in station records is included in the sections, "Data Presentation" (REMARKS paragraph) and "Identifying Estimated Daily Discharge."

Data Presentation

Streamflow data in this report are presented in a new format that is considerably different from the format in data reports prior to the 1991 water year. The major changes are that statistical characteristics of discharge now appear in tabular summaries following the water-year data table and less information is provided in the text or station manuscript above the table.

The records published for each continuous-record surface-water discharge station (gaging station) now consist of five parts: (1) the manuscript or station description; (2) the data table of daily-mean values of discharge for the current water year with summary data; (3) a tabular statistical summary of monthly-mean-flow data for a designated period, by water year; (4) a summary statistics table that includes statistical data of annual, daily and instantaneous flows as well as data pertaining to annual runoff, 7-day low-flow minimums, and flow duration; and (5) a hydrograph of discharge.

Station Manuscript

The manuscript provides, under various headings, descriptive information, such as station location, period of record, historical extremes outside the period of record, record accuracy, and other remarks pertinent to station operation and regulation. The following information, as appropriate, is provided with each continuous record of discharge or lake content. Comments to follow clarify information presented under the various headings of the station description.

**LOCATION--**Information on locations is obtained from the most accurate maps available. The location of the gage with respect to the cultural and physical features in the vicinity and with respect to the reference place mentioned in the station name is given. River mileages, given for only a few stations, were determined by methods given in "River Mileage Measurement," Bulletin 14, Revision of October 1968, prepared by the Water Resources Council or were provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**DRAINAGE AREA--**Drainage areas are measured using the most accurate maps available. Because the type of maps available varies from one drainage basin to another, the accuracy of drainage areas likewise varies. Drainage areas are updated as better maps become available.

**PERIOD OF RECORD--**This indicates the period for which there are published records for the station or for an equivalent station. An equivalent station is one that was in operation at a time when the present station was not, and whose location was such that records from it can reasonably be considered equivalent with records from the present station.

**REVISED RECORDS--**Published records, because of new information, occasionally are found to be incorrect, and revisions are printed in later reports. Listed under this heading are all reports in which revisions have been published for the station and water years to which the revisions apply. If a revision did not include daily, monthly, or annual figures of discharge, that fact is noted after the year dates as follows: "(M)" means that only the instantaneous maximum discharge was revised; "(m)" means that only the instantaneous minimum was revised; and "(P)" means that only peak discharges were revised. If the drainage area has been revised, the report in which the most recently revised figure was first published is given.

**GAGE--**The type of gage in current use, the datum of the current gage referred to National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (see glossary), and a condensed history of the types, locations, and datum of previous gages are given under this heading.

**REMARKS--**All periods of estimated daily-discharge record will either be identified by date in this paragraph of the station description for water-discharge stations or flagged in the daily-discharge table. If a remarks statement is used to identify estimated record, the paragraph will begin with this information presented as the first entry. The paragraph is also used to present information relative to the accuracy of the records, to special methods of computation, to conditions that affect natural flow at the station and, possibly, to other pertinent items. For reservoir stations, information is given on the dam forming the reservoir, the capacity, outlet works and spillway, and purpose and use of the reservoir.

**COOPERATION--**Records provided by a cooperating organization or obtained for the USGS by a cooperating organization are identified here.

**EXTREMES OUTSIDE PERIOD OF RECORD--**Included here is the information concerning major floods or unusually low flows that occurred outside the stated period of record. The information may or may not have been obtained by the USGS.

**REVISIONS--**If errors in published water-quality records are discovered after publication, appropriate updates are made in the U.S. Geological Survey's distributed data system NWIS, and subsequently to its web-based National data system, NWISWeb [http://water.usgs.gov/nwis/nwis]. Because the usual volume of updates makes it impractical to document individual changes in the State data-report series or elsewhere, potential users of U.S. Geological Survey water-quality data are encouraged to obtain all required data from NWIS or NWISWeb to ensure the most recent updates. Updates to NWISWeb are currently made on an annual basis.

Manuscript information for lake or reservoir stations differs from that for stream stations in the nature of the "Remarks" and to the inclusion of a skeleton stage-capacity table when daily contents are given.

Headings for AVERAGE DISCHARGE, EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD, AND EXTREMES FOR CURRENT YEAR have been deleted and the information contained in these paragraphs, except for the listing of secondary instantaneous peak discharges in the EXTREMES FOR CURRENT YEAR paragraph, is now presented in the tabular summaries following the discharge table or in the REMARKS paragraph, as appropriate. No changes have been made to the data presentations of lake contents.

Peak Discharges Greater Than Base Discharge

Tables of peak discharges above base discharge are included for some stations where secondary instantaneous peak discharges are used in flood-frequency studies of highway and bridge design, flood-control structures, and other flood-related projects. The base discharge value is selected so an average of three peaks a year will be reported. This base discharge value has a recurrence interval of approximately 1.1 years, or a 91-percent chance of exceedance in any 1 year.

Data Table of Daily-Mean Values

The daily table of discharge records for stream-gaging stations gives mean discharge for each day of the water year. In the monthly summary for the table, the line headed TOTAL gives the sum of the daily figures for each month; the line headed MEAN gives the average flow in cubic feet per sec-

ond for the month; and the lines headed MAX and MIN give the maximum and minimum daily-mean discharges, respectively, for each month. Discharge for the month also is usually expressed in cubic feet per second per square mile (line headed CFSM); or in inches (line headed IN); or in acre-feet (line headed AC-FT). Figures for cubic feet per second per square mile and runoff in inches or in acre-feet may be omitted if there is extensive regulation or diversion or if the drainage area includes large noncontributing areas. At some stations, monthly and (or) yearly observed discharges are adjusted for reservoir storage or diversion, or diversion data or reservoir contents are given. These figures are identified by a symbol and corresponding footnote.

Statistics of Monthly-Mean Data

A tabular summary of the mean (line headed MEAN), maximum (line headed MAX), and minimum (line headed MIN) of monthly-mean flows for each month for a designated period is provided below the mean values table. The water years of the first occurrence of the maximum and minimum monthly flows are provided immediately below those figures. The designated period will be expressed as FOR WATER YEARS 20__-20__, BY WATER YEAR (WY), and will list the first and last water years of the range of years selected from the PERIOD OF RECORD paragraph in the station manuscript. It will consist of all of the station record within the specified water years, inclusive, including complete months of record for partial water years, if any, and may coincide with the period of record for the station. The water years for which the statistics are computed will be consecutive, unless a break in the station record is indicated in the manuscript.

Summary Statistics

A table titled SUMMARY STATISTICS follows the statistics of monthly mean data tabulation. This table consists of four columns, with the first column containing the line headings of the statistics being reported. The table provides a statistical summary of yearly, daily, and instantaneous flows, not only for the current water year, but also for the previous calendar year and for a designated period, as appropriate. The designated period selected, WATER YEARS 20__-20__, will consist of all of the station record within the specified water years, inclusive, including complete months of record for partial water years, if any, and may coincide with the period of record for the station. The water years for which the statistics are computed will be consecutive, unless a break in the station record is indicated in the manuscript. All of the calculations for the statistical characteristics designated ANNUAL (see line headings below), except for the ANNUAL 7-DAY MINIMUM statistic, are calculated for the designated period using complete water years. The other statistical characteristics may be calculated using partial water years.

The date or water year, as appropriate, of the first occurrence of each statistic reporting extreme values of discharge is provided adjacent to the statistic. Repeated occurrences may be noted in the REMARKS paragraph of the manuscript or in footnotes. Because the designated period may not be the same as the station period of record published in the manuscript, occasionally the dates of occurrence listed for the daily and instantaneous extremes in the designated-period column may not be within the selected water years listed in the heading. When this occurs, it will be noted in the REMARKS paragraph or in footnotes. Selected streamflow duration curve statistics and runoff data are also given. Runoff data may be omitted if there is extensive regulation or diversion of flow in the drainage basin.

The following summary statistics data, as appropriate, are provided with each continuous record of discharge. Comments to follow clarify information presented under the various line headings of the Summary Statistics Table.

**ANNUAL TOTAL--**The sum of the daily-mean values of discharge for the year. At some stations the yearly-mean discharge is adjusted for reservoir storage or diversion. The adjusted figures are identified by symbol and corresponding footnotes.

**ANNUAL MEAN--**The arithmetic mean of the individual daily-mean discharges for the year noted or for the designated period. At some stations the yearly-mean discharge is adjusted for reservoir storage or diversion. The adjusted figures are identified by a symbol and corresponding footnotes.

**HIGHEST ANNUAL MEAN--**The maximum annual-mean discharge occurring for the designated period.

**LOWEST ANNUAL MEAN--**The minimum annual-mean discharge occurring for the designated period.

**HIGHEST DAILY MEAN--**The maximum daily-mean discharge for the year or for the designated period.

**LOWEST DAILY MEAN--**The minimum daily-mean discharge for the year or for the designated period.

**ANNUAL 7-DAY MINIMUM--**The lowest mean discharge for 7 consecutive days for a calendar year or a water year. Note that most low-flow frequency analyses of annual 7- day minimum flows use a climatic year (April 1-March 31). The date shown in the summary statistics table is the initial date of the 7-day period. (This value should not be confused with the 7-day 10-year low-flow statistic.)

**MAXIMUM PEAK FLOW**--The maximum instantaneous peak discharge occurring for the water year or designated period. Occasionally the maximum flow for a year may occur at midnight at the beginning or end of the year. In this case, the maximum peak flow is given in the table and the maximum flow may be reported in a footnote or REMARKS paragraph in the manuscript.

**MAXIMUM PEAK STAGE--**The maximum instantaneous peak stage occurring for the water year or designated period. Occasionally the maximum flow for a year may occur at midnight at the beginning or end of the year, on a recession from or rise toward a higher peak in the adjoining year. In this case, the maximum peak stage is given in the table and the maximum stage may be reported in the REMARKS paragraph in the manuscript or in a footnote. If the dates of occurrence of the maximum peak stage and maximum peak flow are different, the REMARKS paragraph in the manuscript or a footnote may be used to provide further information.

**INSTANTANEOUS LOW FLOW--**The minimum instantaneous discharge occurring for the water year or for the designated period.

**ANNUAL RUNOFF--**Indicates the total quantity of water in runoff for a drainage area for the year. Data reports may use any of the following units of measurement in presenting annual runoff data.

**Acre-foot** (AC-FT) is the quantity of water required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot and is equivalent to 43,560 cubic feet or about 326,000 gallons or 1,233 cubic meters.

**Cubic feet per second per square mile** (CFSM) is the average number of cubic feet of water flowing per second from each square

mile of area drained, assuming the runoff is distributed uniformly in time and area.

**Inches** (INCHES) indicates the depth to which the drainage area would be covered if all of the runoff for a given time period were uniformly distributed on it.

**10 PERCENT EXCEEDS--**The discharge that is exceeded by 10 percent of the flow for the designated period.

**50 PERCENT EXCEEDS--**The discharge that is exceeded by 50 percent of the flow for the designated period.

**90 PERCENT EXCEEDS--**The discharge that is exceeded by 90 percent of the flow for the designated period.

Data collected at partial-record stations follow the information for continuous-record sites. Data for partial-record discharge stations are presented in two tables. The first is a table of discharge measurements at low-flow partial-record stations, and the second is a table of annual maximum stage and discharge at crest-stage stations. The tables of partial-record stations are followed by a listing of discharge measurements made at sites other than continuous-record or partial-record stations. These measurements generally are made in times of drought or flood to give better areal coverage to those events. Those measurements and others collected for some special reason are called measurements at miscellaneous sites.

Identifying Estimated Daily Discharge

Estimated daily-discharge values published in the water-discharge tables of annual State data reports are identified either by flagging individual daily values with the letter symbol “e” and printing a table footnote, "e Estimated," or by listing the dates of the estimated record in the REMARKS paragraph of the station description.

Accuracy of the Field Data and Completed Results

The accuracy of streamflow records depends primarily on: (1) The stability of the stage-discharge relation or, if the control is unstable, the frequency of discharge measurements; and (2) the accuracy of measurements of stage, measurements of discharge, and interpretation of records.

The accuracy attributed to the records is indicated under REMARKS. "Excellent" means that about 95 percent of the daily discharges are within 5 percent of the true; "good," within 10 percent; and "fair," within 15 percent. Records that do not meet the criteria mentioned are rated "poor." Different accuracies may be attributed to different parts of a given record.

Daily-mean discharges in this report are given to the nearest hundredth of a cubic foot per second for values less than 1 $ft^3/s$; to the nearest tenth between 1.0 and 10 $ft^3/s$; to whole numbers between 10 and 1,000 $ft^3/s$; and to 3 significant figures for more than 1,000 $ft^3/s$. The number of significant figures used is based solely on the magnitude of the discharge value. The same rounding rules apply to discharges listed for partial-record stations and miscellaneous sites.

Discharge at many stations, as indicated by the monthly mean, may not reflect natural runoff due to the effects of diversion, consumption, regulation by storage, increase or decrease in evaporation due to artificial causes, or to other factors. For such stations, figures of cubic feet per second per square mile and of runoff, in inches, are not published unless satisfactory adjustments can be made for diversions, for changes in contents of reservoirs, or for other changes incident to use and control. Evaporation from a reservoir is not included in the adjustments for changes in reservoir contents, unless it is so stated. Even at those stations where adjustments are made, large errors in computed runoff may occur if adjustments or losses are large in comparison with the observed discharge.

Other Records Available

Information of a more detailed nature than that published for most of the gaging stations, such as observations of water temperatures, discharge measurements, gage-height records, and rating tables, is on file in the Minnesota District office. Also, most gaging-station records are available in computer-usable form and many statistical analyses have been made.

Information on the availability of unpublished data or statistical analyses may be obtained from the district office.

The National Water-Data Exchange, Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, National Center, Reston, VA 22092, maintains an index of all discharge-measurement sites in the State as well as an index of records of discharge collected by other agencies but not published by the USGS. Information on records available at specific sites can be obtained upon request.

Rating classifications for continuous water-quality records

[≤, less than or equal to; ±, plus or minus value shown; °C, degree Celsius; >, greater than;%, percent; mg/L, milligram per liter; pH unit, standard pH unit]

| Measured physical property | Rating | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor |
| Water temperature | ≤ ±0.2 °C | > ±0.2 to 0.5 °C | > ±0.5 to 0.8 °C | > ±0.8 °C |
| Specific conductance | ≤ ±3% | > ±3 to 10% | > ±10 to 15% | > ±15% |
| Dissolved oxygen | ≤ ±0.3 mg/L | > ±0.3 to 0.5 mg/L | > ±0.5 to 0.8 mg/L | > ±0.8 mg/L |
| pH | ≤ ±0.2 unit | > ±0.2 to 0.5 unit | > ±0.5 to 0.8 unit | > ±0.8 unit |
| Turbidity | ≤ ±5% | > ±5 to 10% | > ±10 to 15% | > ±15% |

## EXPLANATION OF PRECIPITATION RECORDS

### Data Collection and Computation

Rainfall data generally are collected using electronic data loggers that measure the rainfall in 0.01-inch increments every 15 minutes using either a tipping-bucket rain gage or a collection well gage. Twenty-four hour rainfall totals are tabulated and presented. A 24-hour period extends from just past midnight of the previous day to midnight of the current day. Snowfall-affected data can result during cold weather when snow fills the rain-gage funnel and then melts as temperatures rise. Snowfall-affected data are subject to errors. Missing values are indicated by this symbol "---" in the table.

### Data Presentation

Precipitation records collected at surface-water gaging stations are identified with the same station number and name as the stream-gaging station. Where a surface-water daily-record station is not available, the precipitation record is published with its own name and latitude-longitude identification number.

Information pertinent to the history of a precipitation station is provided in descriptive headings preceding the tabular data. These descriptive headings give details regarding location, period of record, and general remarks.

The following information is provided with each precipitation station. Comments that follow clarify information presented under the various headings of the station description.

LOCATION.—See Data Presentation in the EXPLANATION OF STAGE- AND WATER-DISCHARGE RECORDS section of this report (same comments apply).

PERIOD OF RECORD.—See Data Presentation in the EXPLANATION OF STAGE- AND WATER-DISCHARGE RECORDS section of this report (same comments apply).

INSTRUMENTATION.—Information on the type of rainfall collection system is given.

REMARKS.—Remarks provide added information pertinent to the collection, analysis, or computation of records.

## EXPLANATION OF WATER-QUALITY RECORDS

### Collection and Examination of Data

Surface-water samples for analysis usually are collected at or near stream-gaging stations. The quality-of-water records are given immediately following the discharge records at these stations.

The descriptive heading for water-quality records gives the period of record for all water-quality data; the period of daily record for parameters that are measured on a daily basis (specific conductance, water temperature, sediment discharge, and so forth); extremes for the current year; and general remarks.

For ground-water records, no descriptive statements are given; however, the well number, depth of well, sampling date, or other pertinent data are given in the table containing the chemical analyses of the ground water.

### Water Analysis

Most of the methods used for collecting and analyzing water samples are described in the TWRIs. A list of TWRIs is provided in this report.

One sample can define adequately the water quality at a given time if the mixture of solutes throughout the stream cross section is homogeneous. However, the concentration of solutes at different locations in the cross section may vary widely with different rates of water discharge, depending on the source of material and the turbulence and mixing of the stream. Some streams must be sampled at several verticals to obtain a representative sample needed for an accurate mean concentration and for use in calculating load.

Chemical-quality data published in this report are considered to be the most representative values available for the stations listed. The values reported represent water-quality conditions at the time of sampling as much as possible, consistent with available sampling techniques and methods of analysis. In the rare case where an apparent inconsistency exists between a reported pH value and the relative abundance of carbon dioxide species (carbonate and bicarbonate), the inconsistency is the result of a slight uptake of carbon dioxide from the air by the sample between measurement of pH in the field and determination of carbonate and bicarbonate in the laboratory.

For chemical-quality stations equipped with digital monitors, the records consist of daily maximum and minimum values (and sometimes mean or median values) for each constituent measured, and are based on 15-minute or 1-hour intervals of recorded data beginning at 0000 hours and ending at 2400 hours for the day of record.

## RECORDS OF SURFACE-WATER QUALITY

Records of surface-water quality ordinarily are obtained at or near stream-gaging stations because interpretation of records of surface-water quality nearly always requires corresponding discharge data. Records of surface-water quality in this report may involve a variety of types of data and measurement frequencies.

### Classification of Records

Water-quality data for surface-water sites are grouped into one of three classifications. A **continuing record station** is a site where data are collected on a regularly scheduled basis. Frequency may be one or more times daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly. A **partial-record station** is a site where limited water-quality data are collected systematically over a period of years. Frequency of sampling is usually less than quarterly. A **miscellaneous** sampling site is a location other than a continuing or partial-record station, where random samples are collected to give better areal coverage to define water-quality conditions in the river basin.

A distinction needs to be made between "continuing records," as used in this report, and "continuous recordings," which refers to a continuous graph or a series of discrete values punched at short intervals on a paper tape. Some records of water quality, such as temperature and specific conductance, may be obtained through continuous recordings; however, PERIOD OF RECORD.—See Data Presentation in the EXPLANATION OF STAGE- AND WATER-DISCHARGE RECORDS section of this report (same comments apply).

INSTRUMENTATION.—Information on the type of rainfall collection system is given.

REMARKS.—Remarks provide added information pertinent to the collection, analysis, or computation of records.

## EXPLANATION OF WATER-QUALITY RECORDS

### Collection and Examination of Data

Surface-water samples for analysis usually are collected at or near stream-gaging stations. The quality-of-water records are given immediately following the discharge records at these stations.

The descriptive heading for water-quality records gives the period of record for all water-quality data; the period of daily record for parameters that are measured on a daily basis (specific conductance, water temperature, sediment discharge, and so forth); extremes for the current year; and general remarks.

For ground-water records, no descriptive statements are given; however, the well number, depth of well, sampling date, or other pertinent data are given in the table containing the chemical analyses of the ground water.

### Water Analysis

Most of the methods used for collecting and analyzing water samples are described in the TWRIs. A list of TWRIs is provided in this report.

One sample can define adequately the water quality at a given time if the mixture of solutes throughout the stream cross section is homogeneous. However, the concentration of solutes at different locations in the cross section may vary widely with different rates of water discharge, depending on the source of material and the turbulence and mixing of the stream. Some streams must be sampled at several verticals to obtain a representative sample needed for an accurate mean concentration and for use in calculating load.

Chemical-quality data published in this report are considered to be the most representative values available for the stations listed. The values reported represent water-quality conditions at the time of sampling as much as possible, consistent with available sampling techniques and methods of analysis. In the rare case where an apparent inconsistency exists between a reported pH value and the relative abundance of carbon dioxide species (carbonate and bicarbonate), the inconsistency is the result of a slight uptake of carbon dioxide from the air by the sample between measurement of pH in the field and determination of carbonate and bicarbonate in the laboratory.

For chemical-quality stations equipped with digital monitors, the records consist of daily maximum and minimum values (and sometimes mean or median values) for each constituent measured, and are based on 15-minute or 1-hour intervals of recorded data beginning at 0000 hours and ending at 2400 hours for the day of record.

### Accuracy of the Records

One of four accuracy classifications is applied for measured physical properties at continuous-record stations on a scale ranging from poor to excellent. The accuracy rating is based on data values recorded before any shifts or corrections are made. Additional consideration also is given to the amount of publishable record and to the amount of data that have been corrected or shifted.

### Arrangement of Records

Water-quality records collected at a surface-water daily record station are published immediately following that record, regardless of the frequency of sample collection. Station number and name are the same for both records. Where a surface-water daily-record station is not available or where the water quality differs significantly from that at the nearby surface-water station, the continuing water-quality record is published with its own station number and name in the regular downstream-order sequence. Water-quality data for partial-record stations and for miscellaneous sampling sites appear in separate tables following the table of discharge measurements at miscellaneous sites.

### On-Site Measurements and Sample Collection

Water-quality data must be representative of the in situ quality of water. To assure this, certain measurements, such as water temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen, need to be made onsite when the samples are taken. To assure that measurements made in the laboratory also represent the in situ water, carefully prescribed procedures need to be followed in collecting the samples, in treating the samples to prevent changes in quality pending analysis, and in shipping the samples to the laboratory. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in publications on"Techniques of Water-Resource Investigations," book 1, chap. D2; book 3, chap. C2; book 5 chaps. A1, A3, and A4; book 9, chap. A1-A9. All of these references are listed on pages 22-24 of this report. Also, detailed information on collecting, treating, and shipping samples may be obtained from the USGS Minnesota District office.

One sample can define adequately the water quality at a given time if the mixture of solutes throughout the stream cross section is homogeneous. However, the concentration of solutes at different locations in the cross section may vary widely with different rates of water discharge, depending on the source of material and the turbulence and mixing of the stream. Some streams must be sampled through several vertical sections to obtain a representative sample needed for an accurate mean concentration and for use in calculating load. All samples obtained for the National Stream Quality Accounting Network (see definitions) are obtained from at least several verticals. Whether samples are obtained from the centroid of flow or from several verticals depends on flow conditions and other factors which must be evaluated by the collector.

Chemical-quality data published in this report are considered to be the most representative values available for the stations listed. The values reported represent water-quality conditions at the time of sampling as much as possible, consistent with available sampling techniques and methods of analysis. In the rare case where an apparent inconsistency exists between a reported pH value and the relative abundance of carbon dioxide species (carbonate and bicarbonate), the inconsistency is the result of a slight uptake of carbon dioxide from the air by the sample between measurement of pH in the field and determination of carbonate and bicarbonate in the laboratory.

For chemical-quality stations equipped with digital monitors, the records consist of daily maximum, minimum, and mean values for each constituent measured and are based upon hourly punches beginning at 0100 hours and ending at 2400 hours for the day of record. More detailed records (hourly values) may be obtained from the USGS Minnesota District office.

### Water Temperature

Water temperatures are measured at most of the water-quality stations. In addition, water temperatures are taken at time of discharge measurements for water-discharge stations. For stations where water temperatures are taken manually once or twice daily, the water temperatures are taken at about the same time each day. Large streams have a small diurnal temperature change; shallow streams may have a daily range of several degrees and may follow closely the changes in air temperature. Some streams may be affected by waste-heat discharges.

At stations where recording instruments are used, either mean temperatures or maximum and minimum temperatures for each day are published. Water temperatures measured at the time of water-discharge measurements are on file in the Minnesota District office.

### Sediment

Suspended-sediment concentrations are determined from samples collected by using depth-integrating samplers. Samples usually are obtained at several verticals in the cross section, or a single sample may be obtained at a fixed point and a coefficient applied to determine the mean concentration in the cross sections.

During periods of rapidly changing flow or rapidly changing concentration, samples may have been collected more frequently (twice daily or, in some instances, hourly). The published sediment discharges for days of rapidly changing flow or concentration were computed by the subdivided-day method (time-discharge weighted average). Therefore, for those days when the published sediment discharge value differs from the value computed as the product of discharge times mean concentration times 0.0027, the reader can assume that the sediment discharge for that day was computed by the subdivided-day method. For periods when no samples were collected, daily loads of suspended sediment were estimated on the basis of water discharge, sediment concentrations observed immediately before and after the periods, and suspended-sediment loads for other periods of similar discharge.

At other stations, suspended-sediment samples were collected periodically at many verticals in the stream cross section. Although data collected periodically may represent conditions only at the time of observations, such data are useful in establishing seasonal relations between quality and streamflow and in predicting long-term sediment-discharge characteristics of the stream.

In addition to the records of suspended-sediment discharge, records of the periodic measurements of the particle-size distribution of the suspended sediment and bed material are included for some stations.

### Laboratory Measurements

Samples for indicator bacteria and specific conductance are analyzed locally. All other samples are analyzed in the U.S. Geological Survey laboratories in Arvada, Colorado; Doraville, Georgia; or Iowa City, Iowa. Methods used in analyzing sediment samples and computing sediment records are given in U.S. Geological Survey Techniques of Water Resources Investigations, book 5, chap. C1. Methods used by the USGS laboratories are given in U.S. Geological Survey Techniques of Water Resources Investigation, book 1, chap. D2; book 3, chap. C2; book 5, chaps. A1, A3, and A4.

### Data Presentation

For continuous-record stations, information pertinent to the history of station operation is provided in descriptive headings preceding the tabular data. These descriptive headings give details regarding location, drainage area, period of record, type of data available, instrumentation, general remarks, cooperation, and extremes for parameters currently measured daily. Tables of chemical, physical, biological, radiochemical data, and so forth, obtained at a frequency less than daily are presented first. Tables of daily values of specific conductance, pH, water temperature, dissolved, and suspended sediment then follow in sequence.

In the descriptive headings, if the location is identical to that of the discharge gaging station, neither the LOCATION nor the DRAINAGE AREA statements are repeated. The following information, when appropriate, is provided with each continuous-record station. Comments that follow clarify information presented under the various headings of the station description.

**LOCATION--**See "Data Presentation" under "Records of Stage and Water Discharge;" same comments apply.

**DRAINAGE AREA--**See "Data Presentation" under "Records of Stage and Water Discharge;" same comments apply.

**PERIOD OF RECORD--**This indicates the periods for which there are published water-quality records for the station. The periods are shown separately for records of parameters measured daily or continuously and those measured less than daily. For those measured daily or continuously, periods of record are given for the parameters individually.

**INSTRUMENTATION--**Information on instrumentation is given only if a water-quality monitor, temperature recorder, sediment pumping sampler, or other sampling device is in operation at a station.

**REMARKS--**Remarks provide added information pertinent to the collection, analysis, or computation of the records.

**COOPERATION--**Records provided by a cooperating organization or obtained for the USGS by a cooperating organization are identified here.

**EXTREMES--**Maximums and minimums are given only for parameters measured daily or more frequently. None are given for parameters measured weekly or less frequently, because the true maximums or minimums may not have been sampled. Extremes, when given, are provided for both the period of record and for the current water year.

**REVISIONS--**If errors in published water-quality records are discovered after publication, appropriate updates are made to the Water-Quality File in the U.S. Geological Survey's computerized data system, WATSTORE, and subsequently by monthly transfer of update transactions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's STORET system. Because the usual volume of updates makes it impractical to document individual changes in the State data-report series or elsewhere, potential users of USGS water-quality data are encouraged to obtain all required data from the appropriate computer file to ensure the most recent updates.

The surface-water-quality records for partial-record stations and miscellaneous sampling sites are published in separate tables following the table of discharge measurements at miscellaneous sites. No descriptive statements are given for these records. Each station is published with its own station number and name in the regular downstream-order sequence.

Remark Codes

The following remark codes may appear with the water-quality data in this report:

| PRINTED OUTPUT | REMARK |
|---|---|
| e, E | Estimated value |
| > | Actual value is known to be greater than the value shown |
| < | Actual value is known to be less than the value shown |
| K | Results based on colony count outside the acceptance range (non-ideal colony count) |
| L | Biological organisms count less than 0.5 percent (organisms may be observed rather than counted) |
| D | Biological organism count equal to or greater than 15 percent (dominant) |
| M | Presence of material verified, but not quantified. |
| V | Analyte was detected in both the environmental sample and the associated blanks |
| & | Biological organism estimated as dominant. |

Water Quality-Control Data

The USGS National Water-Quality Laboratory collects quality-control data on a continuing basis to evaluate selected analytical methods to determine long-term method detection levels (LT-MDLs) and laboratory reporting levels (LRLs). These values are re-evaluated each year on the basis of the most recent quality-control data and, consequently, may change from year to year.

This reporting procedure limits the occurrence of false positive error. Falsely reporting a concentration greater than the LT-MDL for a sample in which the analyte is not present is 1 percent or less. Application of the LRL limits the occurrence of false negative error. The chance of falsely reporting a non-detection for a sample in which the analyte is present at a concentration equal to or greater than the LRL is 1 percent or less.

Accordingly, concentrations are reported as less than LRL for samples in which the analyte was either not detected or did not pass identification. Analytes detected at concentrations between the LT-MDL and the LRL and that pass identification criteria are estimated. Estimated concentrations will be noted with a remark code of "E." These data should be used with the understanding that their uncertainty is greater than that of data reported without the E remark code.

Data generated from quality-control (QC) samples are a requisite for evaluating the quality of the sampling and processing techniques as well as data from the actual samples themselves. Without QC data, environmental sample data cannot be adequately interpreted because the errors associated with the sample data are unknown. The various types of QC samples collected by this district are described in the following section. Procedures have been established for the storage of water-quality-control data within the USGS. These procedures allow for storage of all derived QC data and are identified so that they can be related to corresponding environmental samples.

Blank Samples

Blank samples are collected and analyzed to ensure that environmental samples have not been contaminated by the overall data-collection process. The blank solution used to develop specific types of blank samples is a solution that is free of the analytes of interest. Any measured value signal in a blank sample for an analyte (a specific component measured in a chemical analysis) that was absent in the blank solution is believed to be due to contamination. There are many types of blank samples possible, each designed to segregate a different part of the overall data-collection process. The types of blank samples collected in this district are:

**FIELD BLANK--**a blank solution that is subjected to all aspects of sample collection, field processing preservation, transportation, and laboratory handling as an environmental sample.

**TRIP BLANK--**a blank solution that is put in the same type of bottle used for an environmental sample and kept with the set of sample bottles before and after sample collection.

**EQUIPMENT BLANK--**a blank solution that is processed through all equipment used for collecting and processing an environmental sample (similar to a field blank, but normally done in the more controlled conditions of the office).

**SAMPLER BLANK--**a blank solution that is poured or pumped through the same field sampler used for collecting an environmental sample.

**FILTER BLANK--**a blank solution that is filtered in the same manner and through the same filter apparatus used for an environmental sample.

**SPLITTER BLANK--**a blank solution that is mixed and separated using a field splitter in the same manner and through the same apparatus used for an environmental sample.

**PRESERVATION BLANK--**a blank solution that is treated with the sampler preservatives used for an environmental sample.

Reference Samples

Reference material is a solution or material prepared by a laboratory whose composition is certified for one or more properties so that it can be used to assess a measurement method. Samples of reference material are submitted for analysis to ensure that an analytical method is accurate for the known properties of the reference material. Generally, the selected reference material properties are similar to the environmental sample properties.

Replicate Samples

Replicate samples are a set of environmental samples collected in a manner such that the samples are thought to be essentially identical in composition. Replicate is the general case for which a duplicate is the special case consisting of two samples. Replicate samples are collected and analyzed to establish the amount of variability in the data contributed by some part of the collection and analytical process. There are many types of replicate samples possible, each of which may yield slightly different results in a dynamic hydrologic setting, such as a flowing stream. The types of replicate samples collected in this district are:

**CONCURRENT SAMPLES—**A type of replicate sample in which the samples are collected simultaneously with two or more samplers or by using one sampler and alternating the collection of samples into two or more compositing containers.

**SEQUENTIAL SAMPLE--**a type of replicate sample in which the samples are collected one after the other, typically over a short time.

**SPLIT SAMPLE--**a type of replicate sample in which a sample is split into subsamples contemporaneous in time and space.

Spike Samples

Spike samples are samples to which known quantities of a solution with one or more well-established analyte concentrations have been added. These samples are analyzed to determine the extent of matrix interference or degradation on the analyte concentration during sample processing and analysis.

## EXPLANATION OF GROUND-WATER-LEVEL RECORDS

Generally, only ground-water-level data from selected wells with continuous recorders from a basic network of observation wells are published in this report. This basic network contains observation wells located so that the most significant data are obtained from the fewest wells in the most important aquifers.

Site Identification Numbers

Each well is identified by means of (1) a 15-digit number that is based on latitude and longitude and (2) a local number that is produced for local needs.

Data Collection and Computation

Measurements are made in many types of wells, under varying conditions of access and at different temperatures; hence, neither the method of measurement nor the equipment can be standardized. At each observation well, however, the equipment and techniques used are those that will ensure that measurements at each well are consistent.

Most methods for collecting and analyzing water samples are described in the TWRIs referred to in the On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI book 1, chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRIs book 1, chapter D2; book 3, chapters A1, A3, and A4; anathe On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI book 1, chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRIs book 1, chapter D2; book 3, chapters A1, A3, and A4; anathe On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI book 1, chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRIs book 1, chapter D2; book 3, chapters A1, A3, and A4; anathe On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI book 1, chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRIs book 1, chapter D2; book 3, chapters A1, A3, and A4; anathe On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI book 1, chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRIs book 1, chapter D2; book 3, chapters A1, A3, and A4; anathe On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI book 1, chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRIs book 1, chapter D2; book 3, chapters A1, A3, and A4; anathe On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI book 1, chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRIs book 1, chapter D2; book 3, chapters A1, A3, and A4; anathe On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI book 1, chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRIs book 1, chapter D2; book 3, chapters A1, A3, and A4; anathe On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI book 1, chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRIs book 1, chapter D2; book 3, chapters A1, A3, and A4; anathe On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI book 1, chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRIs book 1, chapter D2; book 3, chapters A1, A3, and A4; anathe On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI book 1, chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRIs book 1, chapter D2; book 3, chapters A1, A3, and A4; anathe On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI

important species to obtain an average biovolume per cell. Cells are categorized according to the correspondence of their cellular shape to the nearest geometric solid or combinations of simple solids (for example, spheres, cones, or cylinders). Representative formula used to compute biovolume are as follows:

sphere $4/3\ \pi^3$ cone $1/3\ \pi^3 h$ cylinder $\pi^3 h$.

From cell volume, total algal biomass expressed as biovolume ($\mu m^3/mL$) is thus determined by multiplying the number of cells of a given species by its average cell volume and then summing these volumes over all species.

**Cfs-day** (See "Cubic foot per second-day")

**Chemical oxygen demand** (COD) is a measure of the chemically oxidizable material in the water and furnishes an approximation of the amount of organic and reducing material present. The determined value may correlate with BOD or with carbonaceous organic pollution from sewage or industrial wastes.(See also "Biochemical oxygen demand" (BOD))

**Chlorophyll** refers to the green pigments of plants. Chlorophyll *a* and *b* are the two most common green pigments in plants.

**Colloid** is any substance with particles in such a fine state of subdivision dispersed in a medium (for example, water) that they do not settle out; but not in so fine a state of subdivision that they can be said to be truly dissolved.

**Confined aquifer** is a term used to describe an aquifer containing water between two relatively impermeable boundaries. The water level in a well tapping a confined aquifer stands above the top of the confined aquifer and can be higher or lower than the water table that may be present in the material above it. In some cases the water level can rise above the ground surface, yielding a flowing well.

**Contents** is the volume of water in a reservoir or lake. Unless otherwise indicated, volume is computed on the basis of a level pool and does not include bank storage.

**Continuous-record station** is a site that meets either of the following conditions:

Stage or streamflow are recorded at some interval on a continuous basis. The recording interval is usually 15 minutes, but may be less or more frequent.

Water-quality, sediment, or other hydrologic measurements are recorded at least daily.

**Control** designates a feature in the channel downstream from a gaging station that physically influences the water-surface elevation and thereby determines the stage-discharge relation at the station. This feature may be a constriction of the channel, a bedrock outcrop, a gravel bar, an artificial structure, or a uniform cross section over a long reach of the channel.

**Control structure** as used in this report is a structure on a stream or canal that is used to regulate the flow or stage of the stream or to prevent the intrusion of saltwater.

**Cubic foot per second** (CFS, $ft^3/s$) is the rate of discharge representing a volume of 1 cubic foot passing a given point in 1 second. It is equivalent to approximately 7.48 gallons per second, 449 gallons per minute, or 0.02832 cubic meters per second.The daily mean discharges report in the daily value tables numerically are equal to the daily volumes in cfs-days, and the totals also represent volumes in cfs-days.

**Cubic foot per second-day** (CFS-DAY, Cfs-day, [$(ft^3/s)/d$]) is the volume of water represented by a flow of 1 cubic foot per second for 24 hours. It is equivalent to 86,400 cubic feet, 1.9837 acre-feet, 646,317 gallons, or 2,447 cubic meters. The daily mean discharges reported in the daily value data tables numerically equal to the daily volumes in cfs-days, and the totals represent volumes in cfs-days.

**Cubic foot per second per square mile** [CFSM, $(ft^3/s)/mi^2$] is the average number of cubic feet of water flowing per second from each square mile of area drained, assuming the runoff is distributed uniformly in time and area. (See also "Annual runoff")

**Daily mean suspended-sediment concentration** is the time-weighted mean concentration of suspended sediment passing a stream cross section during a 24-hour day. (See also "Sediment" and "Suspended-sediment concentration")

**Daily record** is a summary of streamflow, sediment, or water-quality values computed from data collected with sufficient frequency to obtain reliable estimates of daily mean values.

**Daily record station** is a site for which daily records of streamflow, sediment, or water-quality values are computed.

**Data collection platform** (DCP) is an electronic instrument that collects, processes, and stores data from various sensors, and transmits the data by satellite data relay, line-of-sight radio, and/or landline telemetry.

**Data logger** is a microprocessor-based data acquisition system designed specifically to acquire, process, and store data. Data usually are downloaded from onsite data loggers for entry into office data systems.

**Datum** is a surface or point relative to which measurements of height and/or horizontal position are reported. A vertical datum is a horizontal surface used as the zero point for measurements of gage height, stage, or elevation; a horizontal datum is a reference for positions given in terms of latitude-longitude, State Plane coordinates, or Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates. (See also "Gage datum," "Land-surface datum," "National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929," and "North American Vertical Datum of 1988")

**Discharge,** or **flow**, is the volume of water (or more broadly, volume of fluid including solid- and dissolved-phase material), that passes a given point in a given period of time.

**Annual 7-day minimum** is the lowest mean discharge for 7 consecutive days in a year. Note that most low-flow frequency analyses of annual 7-day minimum flows use a climatic year (April 1-March 31). The date shown in the summary statistics table is the initial date of the 7-day period. (This value should not be confused with the 7-day 10-year low-flow statistic.)

**Instantaneous discharge** is the discharge at a particular instant of time.

**Mean discharge** (MEAN) is the arithmetic mean of individual daily mean discharges during a specific period.

**Dissolved** refers to that material in a representative water sample that passes through a 0.45-micrometer membrane filter. This is a convenient operational definition used by Federal agencies that collect water data. Determinations of "dissolved" constituents are made on subsamples of the filtrate.

**Dissolved oxygen** (DO) content of water in equilibrium with air is a function of atmospheric pressure, temperature, and dissolved-solids concentration of the water. The ability of water to retain oxygen decreases with increasing temperature or dissolved solids, with small temperature changes having the more significant offset. Photosynthesis and respiration may cause diurnal variations in dissolved-oxygen concentration in water from some streams.

**Dissolved-solids concentration** of water is determined either analytically by the "residue-on-evaporation" method, or mathematically by totaling the concentrations of individual constituents reported in a comprehensive chemical analysis. During that analytical determination of dissolved solids, the bicarbonate (generally a major dissolved component of water) is converted to carbonate. Therefore, in the mathematical calculation of dissolved-solids concentration, the bicarbonate value, in milligrams per liter, is multiplied by 0.4926 to reflect the change. Alternatively, alkalinity concentration (as mg/L $CaCO_3$) can be converted to carbonate concentration by multiplying by 0.60.

**Drainage area** of a site on a stream is that area, measured in a horizontal plane, that has a common outlet at the site for its surface runoff. Figures of drainage area given herein include all closed basins, or noncontributing areas, within the area unless otherwise specified.

**Drainage basin** is a part of the Earth's surface that is occupied by a drainage system with a common outlet for its surface runoff (see "Drainage area").

**Dry mass** refers to the mass of residue present after drying in an oven at 105 °C, until the mass remains unchanged. This mass represents the total organic matter, ash and sediment, in the sample. Dry-mass values are expressed in the same units as ash mass. (See also "Ash mass," "Biomass," and "Wet mass")

**Dry weight** refers to the weight of animal tissue after it has been dried in an oven at 65 °C until a constant weight is achieved. Dry weight represents total organic and inorganic matter in the tissue. (See also "Wet weight")

**Estimated (E) value** of a concentration is reported when an analyte is detected and all criteria for a positive result are met. If the concentration is less than the method detection limit (MDL), an E code will be reported with the value. If the analyte is identified qualitatively as present, but the quantitative determination is substantially more uncertain, the National Water-Quality Laboratory will identify the result with an E code even though the measured value is greater than the MDL. A value reported with an E code should be used with caution. When no analyte is detected in a sample, the default reporting value is the MDL preceded by a less than sign (<). For bacteriological data, concentrations are reported as estimated when results are based on non-ideal colony counts.

**Flow-duration percentiles** are values on a scale of 100 that indicate the percentage of time for which a flow is not exceeded. For example, the 90th percentile of river flow is greater than or equal to 90 percent of all recorded flow rates.

**Gage datum** is the elevation of the zero point of the reference gage from which gage height is determined as compared to sea level (see "Datum"). This elevation is established by a system of levels from known benchmarks, by approximation from topographic maps, or by geographical positioning system.

**Gage height** (G.H.) is the water-surface elevation referenced to the gage datum. Gage height is often used interchangeably with the more general term "stage," although gage height is more appropriate when used with a reading on a gage.

**Gaging station** is a site on a stream, canal, lake, or reservoir where systematic observations of stage, discharge, or other hydrologic data are obtained.

**Gage values** are values that are recorded, transmitted, and/or computed from a gaging station. Gage values typically are collected at 5-, 15-, or 30-minute intervals.

**Gas chromatography/flame ionization detector** (GC/FID) is a laboratory analytical method used as a screening technique for semi-volatile organic compounds that are extractable from water in methylene chloride.

**Ground-water level** is the elevation of the water table or another potentiometric surface at a particular location.

**Hardness** of water is a physical-chemical characteristic that is commonly recognized by the increased quantity of soap required to produce lather. It is attributable to the presence of alkaline earths (principally calcium and magnesium) and is expressed as the equivalent concentration of calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$).

**Horizontal datum** (See "Datum")

**Hydrologic index stations** referred to in this report are continuous-record gaging stations that have been selected as representative of streamflow patterns for their respective regions. Station locations are shown on index maps.

**Hydrologic benchmark station** is one that provides hydrologic data for a basin in which the hydrologic regimen will likely be governed solely by natural conditions. Data collected at a benchmark station may be used to separate effects of natural from human-induced changes in other basins that have been developed and in which the physiography, climate, and geology are similar to those in the undeveloped benchmark basin.

**Hydrologic unit** is a geographic area representing part or all of a surface drainage basin or distinct hydrologic feature as defined by the former Office of Water Data Coordination and delineated on the State Hydrologic Unit Maps by the U.S. Geological Survey. Each hydrologic unit is identified by an 8-digit number.

**Inch** (IN., in.), in reference to streamflow, as used in this report, refers to the depth to which the drainage area would be covered with water if all of the runoff for a given time period were distributed uniformly on it. (See also "Annual runoff")

**Instantaneous discharge** is the discharge at a particular instant of time. (See also "Discharge")

**International Boundary Commission Survey Datum** refers to a geodetic datum established at numerous monuments along the United States-Canada boundary by the International Boundary Commission.

**Laboratory reporting level** (LRL) generally is equal to twice the yearly determined long-term method detection level (LT-MDL). The LRL controls false negative error. The probability of falsely reporting a nondetection for a sample that contained an analyte at a concentration equal to or greater than the LRL is predicted to be less than or equal to 1 percent. The

value of the LRL will be reported with a "less than" (<) remark code for samples in which the analyte was not detected. The National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) collects quality-control data from selected analytical methods on a continuing basis to determine LT-MDLs and to establish LRLs. These values are reevaluated annually on the basis of the most current quality-control data and, therefore, may change. The LRL replaces the term 'non-detection value' (NDV).

**Land-surface datum** (lsd) is a datum plane that is approximately at land surface at each ground-water observation well.

**Long-term method detection level** (LT-MDL) is a detection level derived by determining the standard deviation of a minimum of 24 method detection limit (MDL) spike-sample measurements over an extended period of time. LT-MDL data are collected on a continuous basis to assess year-to-year variations in the LT-MDL. The LT-MDL controls false positive error. The chance of falsely reporting a concentration at or greater than the LT-MDL for a sample that did not contain the analyte is predicted to be less than or equal to 1 percent.

**Low tide** is the minimum height reached by each falling tide. The high-low and low-low tides are the higher and lower of the two low tides, respectively, of each tidal day. See NOAA web site: http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/tideglos.html

**Macrophytes** are the macroscopic plants in the aquatic environment. The most common macrophytes are the rooted vascular plants that are usually arranged in zones in aquatic ecosystems and restricted in the area by the extent of illumination through the water and sediment deposition along the shoreline.

**Mean concentration of suspended sediment** (Daily mean suspended-sediment concentration) is the time-weighted concentration of suspended sediment passing a stream cross section during a given time period. (See also "Daily mean suspended-sediment concentration" and "Suspended-sediment concentration")

**Mean discharge** (MEAN) is the arithmetic mean of individual daily mean discharges during a specific period. (See also "Discharge")

**Mean high** or **low tide** is the average of all high or low tides, respectively, over a specific period.

**Mean sea level** is a local tidal datum. It is the arithmetic mean of hourly heights observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch. Shorter series are specified in the name; for example, monthly mean sea level and yearly mean sea level. In order that they may be recovered when needed, such datums are referenced to fixed points known as benchmarks. (See also "Datum")

**Measuring point** (MP) is an arbitrary permanent reference point from which the distance to water surface in a well is measured to obtain water level.

**Megahertz** is a unit of frequency. One megahertz equals one million cycles per second.

**Membrane filter** is a thin microporous material of specific pore size used to filter bacteria, algae, and other very small particles from water.

**Method detection limit** (MDL) is the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99-percent confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero. It is determined from the analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte. At the MDL concentration, the risk of a false positive is predicted to be less than or equal to 1 percent.

**Micrograms per gram** (UG/G, µg/g) is a unit expressing the concentration of a chemical constituent as the mass (micrograms) of the element per unit mass (gram) of material analyzed.

**Micrograms per kilogram** (UG/KG, µg/kg) is a unit expressing the concentration of a chemical constituent as the mass (micrograms) of the constituent per unit mass (kilogram) of the material analyzed. One microgram per kilogram is equivalent to 1 part per billion.

**Micrograms per liter** (UG/L, µg/L) is a unit expressing the concentration of chemical constituents in water as mass (micrograms) of constituent per unit volume (liter) of water. One thousand micrograms per liter is equivalent to 1 milligram per liter.

**Microsiemens per centimeter** (US/CM, µS/cm) is a unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution as measured between opposite faces of a centimeter cube of solution at a specified temperature. Siemens is the International System of Units nomenclature. It is synonymous with mhos and is the reciprocal of resistance in ohms.

**Milligrams per liter** (MG/L, mg/L) is a unit for expressing the concentration of chemical constituents in water as the mass (milligrams) of constituent per unit volume (liter) of water. Concentration of suspended sediment also is expressed in mg/L and is based on the mass of dry sediment per liter of water-sediment mixture.

**Minimum reporting level** (MRL) is the smallest measured concentration of a constituent that may be reliably reported by using a given analytical method.

**Miscellaneous site,** or miscellaneous station, is a site where streamflow, sediment, and/or water-quality data are collected once, or more often on a random or discontinuous basis to provide better areal coverage for defining hydrologic and water-quality conditions over a broad area.

**Most probable number** (MPN) is an index of the number of coliform bacteria that, more probably than any other number, would give the results shown by the laboratory examination; it is not an actual enumeration. MPN is determined from the distribution of gas-positive cultures among multiple inoculated tubes.

**Nanograms per liter** (NG/L, ng/L) is a unit expressing the concentration of chemical constituents in solution as mass (nanograms) of solute per unit volume (liter) of water. One million nanograms per liter is equivalent to 1 milligram per liter.

**National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929** (NGVD 29) is a fixed reference adopted as a standard geodetic datum for elevations determined by leveling. It formerly was called "Sea Level Datum of 1929" or "mean sea level." Although the datum was derived from the mean sea level at 26 tide stations**,** it does not necessarily represent local mean sea level at any particular place. See NOAA Web site: http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/faq.shtml#WhatVD29VD88 (See "North American Vertical Datum of 1988")

**Nephelometric turbidity unit** (NTU) is the measurement for reporting turbidity that is based on use of a standard suspension of Formazin. Turbidity measured in NTU uses nephelometric methods that depend on passing specific light of a specific wavelength through the sample.

**North American Datum of 1927** (NAD 27) is the horizontal control datum for the United States that was defined by a location and azimuth on the Clarke spheroid of 1866.

**North American Datum of 1983** (NAD 83) is the horizontal control datum for the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central America that is based on the adjustment of 250,000 points including 600 satellite Doppler stations that constrain the system to a geocentric origin. NAD 83 has been officially adopted as the legal horizontal datum for the United States by the Federal government.

**North American Vertical Datum of 1988** (NAVD of 1988) is the vertical control datum established in 1991 by the minimum-constraint adjustment of the Canadian-Mexican-U.S. leveling observations. It held fixed the height of the primary tidal bench mark, referenced to the new International Great Lakes Datum of 1985 local mean sea level height value, at Father Point/Rimouski, Quebec, Canada. See NOAA web site: http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/faq.shtml#WhatVD29VD88

**Open or screened interval** is the length of unscreened opening or of well screen through which water enters a well, in feet below land surface.

**Organic carbon** (OC) is a measure of organic matter present in aqueous solution, suspension, or bottom sediments. May be reported as dissolved organic carbon (DOC), suspended organic carbon (SOC), or total organic carbon (TOC).

**Organic mass** or **volatile mass** of a living substance is the difference between the dry mass and ash mass and represents the actual mass of the living matter. Organic mass is expressed in the same units as for ash mass and dry mass. (See also "Ash mass," "Biomass," and "Dry mass")

**Organism** is any living entity.

**Organism count/area** refers to the number of organisms collected and enumerated in a sample and adjusted to the number per area habitat, usually square meter ($m^2$), acre, or hectare. Periphyton, benthic organisms, and macrophytes are expressed in these terms.

**Organism count/volume** refers to the number of organisms collected and enumerated in a sample and adjusted to the number per sample volume, usually milliliter (mL) or liter (L). Numbers of planktonic organisms can be expressed in these terms.

**Total organism count** is the total number of organisms collected and enumerated in any particular sample.

**Organochlorine compounds** are any chemicals that contain carbon and chlorine. Organochlorine compounds that are important in investigations of water, sediment, and biological quality include certain pesticides and industrial compounds.

**Parameter Code** is a 5-digit number used in the U.S. Geological Survey computerized data system, National Water Information System (NWIS), to uniquely identify a specific constituent or property.

**Partial-record station** is a site where discrete measurements of one or more hydrologic parameters are obtained over a period of time without continuous data being recorded or computed. A common example is a crest-stage gage partial-record station at which only peak stages and flows are recorded.

**Particle size** is the diameter, in millimeters (mm), of a particle determined by sieve or sedimentation methods. The sedimentation method utilizes the principle of Stokes Law to calculate sediment particle sizes. Sedimentation methods (pipet, bottom-withdrawal tube, visual-accumulation tube, Sedigraph) determine fall diameter of particles in either distilled water (chemically dispersed) or in native water (the river water at the time and point of sampling).

**Particle-size classification** used in this report agrees with the recommendation made by the American Geophysical Union Subcommittee on Sediment Terminology. The classification is as follows:

| Classification | Size (mm) | | | Method of analysis |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clay | 0.00024 | - | 0.004 | Sedimentation |
| Silt | 0.004 | - | 0.062 | Sedimentation |
| Sand | 0.062 | - | 2.0 | Sedimentation/sieve |
| Gravel | 2.0 | - | 64.0 | Sieve |

The particle-size distributions given in this report are not necessarily representative of all particles in transport in the stream. Most of the organic matter is removed, and the sample is subjected to mechanical and chemical dispersion before analysis in distilled water. Chemical dispersion is not used for native water analysis.

**Peak flow (peak stage)** is an instantaneous local maximum value in the continuous time series of streamflows or stages, preceded by a period of increasing values and followed by a period of decreasing values. Several peak values ordinarily occur in a year. The maximum peak value in a year is called the annual peak; peaks lower than the annual peak are called secondary peaks. Occasionally, the annual peak may not be the maximum value for the year; in such cases, the maximum value occurs at midnight at the beginning or end of the year, on the recession from or rise toward a higher peak in the adjoining year. If values are recorded at a discrete series of times, the peak recorded value may be taken as an approximation of the true peak, which may occur between the recording instants. If the values are recorded with finite precision, a sequence of equal recorded values may occur at the peak; in this case, the first value is taken as the peak.

**Percent composition** or **percent of total** is a unit for expressing the ratio of a particular part of a sample or population to the total sample or population, in terms of types, numbers, weight, or volume.

**Periodic-record station** is a site where stage, discharge, sediment, chemical, physical, or other hydrologic measurements are made one or more times during a year but at a frequency insufficient to develop a daily record.

**Periphyton** is the assemblage of microorganisms attached to and living upon submerged solid surfaces. While primarily consisting of algae, they also include bacteria, fungi, protozoa, rotifers, and other small organisms. Periphyton are useful indicators of water quality.

**Pesticides** are chemical compounds used to control undesirable organisms. Major categories of pesticides include insecticides, miticides, fungicides, herbicides, and rodenticides.

**pH** of water is the negative logarithm of the hydrogen-ion activity. Solutions with pH less than 7.0 are termed "acidic," and solutions with a pH greater than 7.0 are termed "basic." Solutions with a pH of 7.0 are neutral. The presence and concentration of many dissolved chemical constituents found in water are, in part, influenced by the hydrogen-ion activity of water. Biological processes including growth, distribution of organisms, and toxicity of the water to organisms are also influenced, in part, by the hydrogen-ion activity of water.

**Polychlorinated biphenyls** (PCB's) are industrial chemicals that are mixtures of chlorinated biphenyl compounds having various percentages of chlorine. They are similar in structure to organochlorine insecticides.

**Pool**, as used in this report, is a small part of a stream reach with little velocity, commonly with water deeper than surrounding areas.

**Radioisotopes** are isotopic forms of an element that exhibit radioactivity. Isotopes are varieties of a chemical element that differ in atomic weight, but are very nearly alike in chemical properties. The difference arises because the atoms of the isotopic forms of an element differ in the number of neutrons in the nucleus; for example, ordinary chlorine is a mixture of isotopes having atomic weights of 35 and 37, and the natural mixture has an atomic weight of about 35.453. Many of the elements similarly exist as mixtures of isotopes, and a great many new isotopes have been produced in the operation of nuclear devices such as the cyclotron. There are 275 isotopes of the 81 stable elements, in addition to more than 800 radioactive isotopes.

**Recoverable from bottom material** is the amount of a given constituent that is in solution after a representative sample of bottom material has been digested by a method (usually using an acid or mixture of acids) that results in dissolution of readily soluble substances. Complete dissolution of all bottom material is not achieved by the digestion treatment and thus the determination represents less than the total amount (that is, less than 95 percent) of the constituent in the sample. To achieve comparability of analytical data, equivalent digestion procedures would be required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different digestion procedures are likely to produce different analytical results (See also "Bed material").

**Recurrence interval,** also referred to as return period, is the average time, usually expressed in years, between occurrences of hydrologic events of a specified type (such as exceedances of a specified high flow or non-exceedance of a specified low flow). The terms "return period" and "recurrence interval" do not imply regular cyclic occurrence. The actual times between occurrences vary randomly, with most of the times being less than the average and a few being substantially greater than the average. For example, the 100-year flood is the flow rate that is exceeded by the annual maximum peak flow at intervals whose average length is 100 years (that is, once in 100 years, on average); almost two-thirds of all exceedances of the 100-year flood occur less than 100 years after the previous exceedance, half occur less than 70 years after the previous exceedance, and about one-eighth occur more than 200 years after the previous exceedance. Similarly, the 7-day 10-year low flow ($7Q_{10}$) is the flow rate below which the annual minimum 7-day-mean flow dips at intervals whose average length is 10 years (that is, once in 10 years, on average); almost two-thirds of the non-exceedances of the $7Q_{10}$ occur less than 10 years after the previous non-exceedance, half occur less than 7 years after, and about one-eighth occur more than 20 years after the previous non-exceedance. The recurrence interval for annual events is the reciprocal of the annual probability of occurrence. Thus, the 100-year flood has a 1-percent chance of being exceeded by the maximum peak flow in any year, and there is a 10-percent chance in any year that the annual minimum 7-day-mean flow will be less than the $7Q_{10}$.

**Replicate samples** are a group of samples collected in a manner such that the samples are thought to be essentially identical in composition.

**Riffle**, as used in this report, is a shallow part of the stream where water flows swiftly over completely or partially submerged obstructions to produce surface agitation.

**River mile** is the distance of a point on a river measured in miles from the river's mouth along the low-water channel.

**River mileage** is the linear distance along the meandering path of a stream channel determined in accordance with Bulletin No. 14 (October 1968) of the Water Resources Council.

**Runoff in inches** (IN., in.) is the depth, in inches, to which the drainage area would be covered if all the runoff for a given time period were uniformly distributed on it.

**Sea level,** as used in this report, refers to one of the two commonly used national vertical datums (NGVD 1929 or NAVD 1988). See separate entries for definitions of these datums.

**Sediment** is solid material that is transported by, suspended in, or deposited from water. It originates mostly from disintegrated rocks; it also includes chemical and biochemical precipitates and decomposed organic material, such as humus. The quantity, characteristics, and cause of the occurrence of sediment in streams are influenced by environmental factors. Some major factors are degree of slope, length of slope, soil characteristics, land usage, and quantity and intensity of precipitation.

**Suspended sediment** is the sediment that is maintained in suspension by the upward components of turbulent currents or that exists in suspension as a colloid.

**Suspended-sediment concentration** is the velocity-weighted concentration of suspended sediment in the sampled zone (from the water surface to a point approximately 0.3 ft above the bed) expressed as milligrams of dry sediment per liter of water-sediment mixture (mg/L). The entire sample is used for the analysis.

**Mean concentration of suspended sediment** is the time-weighted concentration of suspended sediment passing a stream section during a 24-hour day.

**Suspended-sediment discharge** (tons/day) is the quantity of sediment moving in suspension, reported as dry weight, that passes a cross section in a given time. It is calculated in units of tons per day as follows: concentration (mg/L) x discharge ($ft^3/s$) x 0.0027.

**Suspended-sediment load** is a term that refers to material in suspension. The term needs to be qualified, such as "annual suspended-sediment load" or "sand-size suspended-sediment load," and so on. It is not synonymous with either suspended-sediment discharge or concentration.

**Seven-day 10-year low flow** ($7Q_{10}$) is the minimum flow averaged over 7 consecutive days that is expected to occur on average, once in any 10-year period. The $7Q_{10}$ has a 10-percent chance of occurring in any given year (See also "Annual 7-day minimum" and "Recurrence interval").

**Sodium adsorption ratio** (SAR) is the expression of relative activity of sodium ions in exchange reactions within soil and is an index of sodium or alkali hazard to the soil. Waters range in respect to sodium hazard from those which can be used for irrigation on almost all soils to those which are generally unsatisfactory for irrigation.

**Soil-water content** is the water lost from the soil upon drying to constant mass at 105 °C; expressed either as mass of water per unit mass of dry soil or as the volume of water per unit bulk volume of soil.

**Solute** is any substance that is dissolved in water.

**Specific electrical conductance (conductivity)** is a measure of the capacity of water (or other media) to conduct an electrical current. It is expressed in microsiemens per centimeter at 25 °C. Specific electrical conductance is a function of the types and quantity of dissolved substances in water and can be used for approximating the dissolved-solids content of the

water. Commonly, the concentration of dissolved solids (in milligrams per liter) is from 55 to 75 percent of the specific conductance (in microsiemens). This relation is not constant from stream to stream, and it may vary in the same source with changes in the composition of the water.

**Stable isotope ratio** (per MILL/MIL) is a unit expressing the ratio of the abundance of two radioactive isotopes. Isotope ratios are used in hydrologic studies to determine the age or source of specific waters, to evaluate mixing of different waters, as an aid in determining reaction rates, and other chemical or hydrologic processes.

**Stage**: See "Gage height."

**Stage-discharge relation** is the relation between the water-surface elevation, termed stage (gage height), and the volume of water flowing in a channel per unit time.

**Streamflow** is the discharge that occurs in a natural channel. Although the term "discharge" can be applied to the flow of a canal, the word "streamflow" uniquely describes the discharge in a surface stream course. The term "streamflow" is more general than "runoff" as streamflow may be applied to discharge whether or not it is affected by diversion or regulation.

**Surface area** of a lake or impoundment is that area encompassed by the boundary of the lake or impoundment as shown on USGS topographic maps, or on other available maps or photographs. The computed surface areas reflect the water levels of the lakes or impoundments at the times when the information for the maps or photographs was obtained.

**Surficial bed material** is the top 0.1 to 0.2 ft of the bed material that is sampled using U.S. Series Bed-Material Samplers.

**Surrogate** is an analyte that behaves similarly to a target analyte, but that is highly unlikely to occur in a sample. A surrogate is added to a sample in known amounts before extraction and is measured with the same laboratory procedures used to measure the target analyte. Its purpose is to monitor method performance for an individual sample.

**Suspended** (as used in tables of chemical analyses) refers to the amount (concentration) of undissolved material in a water-sediment mixture. It is associated with the material retained on a 0.45-micrometer filter.

**Suspended, recoverable** is the amount of a given constituent that is in solution after the part of a representative suspended-sediment sample that is retained on a 0.45-micrometer membrane filter has been digested by a method (usually using a dilute acid solution) that results in dissolution of only readily soluble substances. Complete dissolution of all the particulate matter is not achieved by the digestion treatment and thus the determination represents something less than the "total" amount (that is, less than 95 percent) of the constituent present in the sample. To achieve comparability of analytical data, equivalent digestion procedures are required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different digestion procedures are likely to produce different analytical results.

Determinations of "suspended, recoverable" constituents are made either by analyzing portions of the material collected on the filter or, more commonly, by difference, based on determinations of (1) dissolved and (2) total recoverable concentrations of the constituent.

**Suspended, total** is the total amount of a given constituent in the part of a representative suspended-sediment sample that is retained on a 0.45-micrometer membrane filter. This term is used only when the analytical procedure assures measurement of at least 95 percent of the constituent determined. Knowledge of the expected form of the constituent in the sample, as well as the analytical methodology used, is required to determine when the results should be reported as "suspended, total."

Determinations of "suspended, total" constituents are made either by analyzing portions of the material collected on the filter or, more commonly, by difference, based on determinations of (1) dissolved and (2) total concentrations of the constituent.

**Suspended sediment** is the sediment maintained in suspension by the upward components of turbulent currents or that exists in suspension as a colloid. (See also "Sediment")

**Suspended-sediment concentration** is the velocity-weighted concentration of suspended sediment in the sampled zone (from the water surface to a point approximately 0.3 foot above the bed) expressed as milligrams of dry sediment per liter of water-sediment mixture (mg/L). The analytical technique uses the mass of all of the sediment and the net weight of the water-sediment mixture in a sample to compute the suspended-sediment concentration. (See also "Sediment" and "Suspended sediment")

**Suspended-sediment discharge** (tons/d) is the rate of sediment transport, as measured by dry mass or volume, that passes a cross section in a given time. It is calculated in units of tons per day as follows: concentration (mg/L) x discharge ($ft^3/s$) x 0.0027. (See also "Sediment," "Suspended sediment," and "Suspended-sediment concentration")

**Suspended-sediment load** is a general term that refers to a given characteristic of the material in suspension that passes a point during a specified period of time. The term needs to be qualified, such as "annual suspended-sediment load" or "sand-size suspended-sediment load," and so on. It is not synonymous with either suspended-sediment discharge or concentration. (See also "Sediment")

**Suspended solids, total residue at 105 °C concentration** is the concentration of inorganic and organic material retained on a filter, expressed as milligrams of dry material per liter of water (mg/L). An aliquot of the sample is used for this analysis.

**Suspended, total** is the total amount of a given constituent in the part of a water-sediment sample that is retained on a 0.45-micrometer membrane filter. This term is used only when the analytical procedure assures measurement of at least 95 percent of the constituent determined. Knowledge of the expected form of the constituent in the sample, as well as the analytical methodology used, is required to determine when the results should be reported as "suspended, total." Determinations of "suspended, total" constituents are made either by directly analyzing portions of the suspended material collected on the filter or, more commonly, by difference, on the basis of determinations of (1) dissolved and (2) total concentrations of the constituent. (See also "Suspended")

**Taxa (Species) richness** is the number of species (taxa) present in a defined area or sampling unit.

**Thalweg** is the line formed by connecting points of minimum streambed elevation (deepest part of the channel).

**Thermograph** is an instrument that continuously records variations of temperature on a chart. The more general term "temperature recorder" is used in the table descriptions and refers to any instrument that records temperature whether on a chart, a tape, or any other medium.

**Time-weighted average** is computed by multiplying the number of days in the sampling period by the concentrations of individual constituents for the corresponding period and dividing the sum of the products by the total

number of days. A time-weighted average represents the composition of water that would be contained in a vessel or reservoir that had received equal quantities of water from the stream each day for the year.

**Tons per acre-foot** is the dry mass of dissolved solids in 1 acre-foot of water. It is computed by multiplying the concentration of the constituent, in milligrams per liter, by 0.00136.

**Tons per day** (T/DAY, tons/d) is the rate representing a mass of 1 ton of a constituent in streamflow passing a cross section in 1 day. It is equivalent to 2,000 pounds per day, or 0.9072 metric tons per day.

**Total** is the total amount of a given constituent in a representative suspended-sediment sample, regardless of the constituent's physical or chemical form. This term is used only when the analytical procedure assures measurement of at least 95 percent of the constituent present in both the dissolved and suspended phases of the sample. A knowledge of the expected form of the constituent in the sample, as well as the analytical methodology used, is required to judge when the results should be reported as "total." (Note that the word "total" does double duty here, indicating both that the sample consists of a suspended-sediment mixture and that the analytical method determined all of the constituent in the sample.)

**Total discharge** is the quantity of a given constituent, measured as dry mass or volume, that passes a stream cross section per unit of time. When referring to constituents other than water, this term needs to be qualified, such as "total sediment discharge," "total chloride discharge," and so on.

**Total in bottom material** is the total amount of a given constituent in a representative sample of bottom material. This term is used only when the analytical procedure assures measurement of at least 95 percent of the constituent determined. A knowledge of the expected form of the constituent in the sample, as well as the analytical methodology used, is required to judge when the results should be reported as "total in bottom material."

**Total recoverable** is the amount of a given constituent that is in solution after a representative suspended-sediment sample has been digested by a method (usually using a dilute acid solution) that results in dissolution of only readily soluble substances. Complete dissolution of all particulate matter is not achieved by the digestion treatment, and thus the determination represents something less than the "total" amount (that is, less than 95 percent) of the constituent present in the dissolved and suspended phases of the sample. To achieve comparability of analytical data, equivalent digestion procedures are required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different digestion procedures are likely to produce different analytical results.

**Turbidity** is the reduction in the transparency of a solution because of the presence of suspended and some dissolved substances. The measurement technique records the collective optical properties of the solution that cause light to be scattered and attenuated rather than transmitted in straight lines; the higher the intensity of scattered or attenuated light, the higher the value of the turbidity. Turbidity is expressed in nephelometric turbidity units (NTU). Depending on the method used, the turbidity units as NTU can be defined as the intensity of light of a specified wavelength scattered or attenuated by suspended particles or absorbed at a method specified angle, usually 90 degrees, from the path of the incident light. Currently approved methods for the measurement of turbidity in the USGS include those that conform to USEPA Method 180.1, ASTM D1889-00, and ISO 7027. Measurements of turbidity by these different methods and different instruments are unlikely to yield equivalent values.

**Ultraviolet (UV) absorbance (absorption)** at 254 or 280 nanometers is a measure of the aggregate concentration of the mixture of UV absorbing organic materials dissolved in the analyzed water, such as lignin, tannin, humic substances, and various aromatic compounds. UV absorbance (absorption) at 254 or 280 nanometers is measured in UV absorption units per centimeter of path length of UV light through a sample.

**Unconfined aquifer** is an aquifer whose upper surface is a water table free to fluctuate under atmospheric pressure. (See "Water-table aquifer")

**Vertical datum** (See "Datum")

**Water level** is the water-surface elevation or stage of the free surface of a body of water above or below any datum (see "Gage height"), or the surface of water standing in a well, usually indicative of the position of the water table or other potentiometric surface.

**Water table** is the surface of a ground-water body at which the water is at atmospheric pressure.

**Water-table aquifer** is an unconfined aquifer within which is found the water table.

**Water year** in U.S. Geological Survey reports dealing with surface-water supply is the 12-month period October 1 through September 30. The water year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends and which includes 9 of the 12 months. Thus, the year ending September 30, 2003, is called the "2003 water year."

**WDR** is used as an abbreviation for "Water-Data Report" in the REVISED RECORDS paragraph to refer to State annual hydrologic-data reports. (WRD was used as an abbreviation for "Water-Resources Data" in reports published prior to 1976.)

**Weighted average** is used in this report to indicate discharge-weighted average. It is computed by multiplying the discharge for a sampling period by the concentrations of individual constituents for the corresponding period and dividing the sum of the products by the sum of the discharges. A discharge-weighted average approximates the composition of water that would be found in a reservoir containing all the water passing a given location during the water year after thorough mixing in the reservoir.

**Well** is an excavation (pit, hole, tunnel), generally cylindrical in form and often walled in, drilled, dug, driven, bored, or jetted into the ground to such a depth as to penetrate water-yielding geologic material and allow the water to flow or to be pumped to the surface.

**Wet mass** is the mass of living matter plus contained water. (See also "Biomass" and "Dry mass")

**Wet weight** refers to the weight of animal tissue or other substance including its contained water (See also "Dry weight").

**WSP** is used as an abbreviation for "Water-Supply Paper" in reference to previously published reports.

**Zooplankton** is the animal part of the plankton. Zooplankton are capable of extensive movements within the water column and often are large enough to be seen with the unaided eye. Zooplankton are secondary consumers feeding upon bacteria, phytoplankton, and detritus. Because they are the grazers in the aquatic environment, the zooplankton are a vital part of the aquatic food web. The zooplankton community is dominated by small crustaceans and rotifers. (See also "Plankton")