

# Water Resources Data for New Hampshire and Vermont, 2002

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## INTRODUCTION

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

This report series includes records of stage, discharge, and water quality of streams; contents of lakes and reservoirs; and water levels of ground-water wells. This volume contains records for water discharge at 84 gaging stations; stage records for 5 lakes; month end contents for 2 lakes and reservoirs; and water levels at 38 observation wells. Also included are data for 43 crest-stage partial record stations. Locations of these sites are shown in [figures 1 and 2](#). Additional water data were collected at various sites not involved in the systematic data-collection program and are published under miscellaneous discharge measurements for gaging stations in New Hampshire and Vermont. The data in this report represent that part of the National Water Data System collected by the U.S. Geological Survey and cooperating State and Federal agencies in New Hampshire and Vermont.

This series of annual reports for New Hampshire and Vermont began with the 1961 water year with a report that contained only data relating to the quantities of surface water and published as "Water Resources data for Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont." 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 format 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 New Hampshire and Vermont 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 1A and 1B." 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 1939 through 1974 water years were published under the title "Ground-Water Levels in the United States." The above mentioned Water-Supply Papers may be consulted in the libraries of the principal cities of the United States and may be purchased from U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Information Services, Federal Center, Box 25286, Denver, Colorado 80225.



**Figure 1.** Location of surface-water data-collection sites.



Publications similar to this report are published annually by the U.S. Geological Survey for all States. These official reports have an identification number consisting of the two-letter State abbreviation, the last two digits of the water year, and the volume number. For example, this volume is identified as "U.S. Geological Survey Water-Data Report NH-VT-02-1." 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, VA 22161. Real-time and historical data from the surface-water network, as well as information about individual sites, are available through the world wide web at:

<http://nh.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/rt>

Additional information, including current prices, for ordering specific reports may be obtained from the District Office at the address given on the back of the title page or by telephone (603) 226-7800.

## COOPERATION

The U.S. Geological Survey and organizations of the States of New Hampshire and Vermont have had cooperative agreements for the systematic collection of surface-water records since the early 1900's, and for groundwater records since the mid 60's. Organizations that assisted in collecting the data in this report through cooperative agreements with the U.S. Geological Survey are:

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services,  
Michael Nolin, Commissioner

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation,  
Jeffrey Wennberg, Commissioner

City of Keene,  
John A. MacLean, City Manager

City of Rochester,  
Gary Stenhouse, City Manager

Assistance in the form of funds or services was provided by the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, in the collection of records for 20 gaging stations published in this report. Organizations supplying data are acknowledged in the station descriptions.

The following organizations contributed funds and services through the requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

Green Mountain Power Company

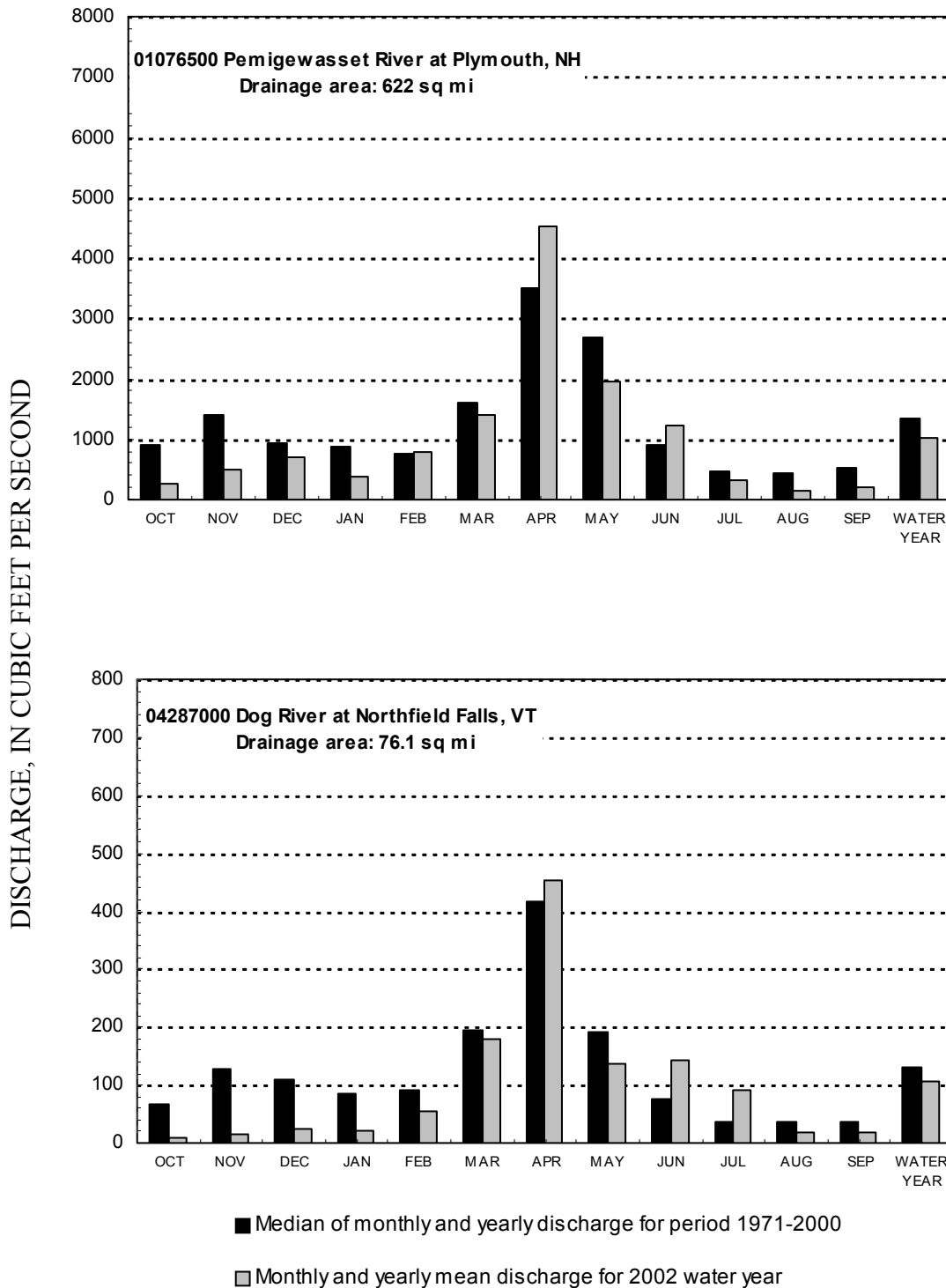
Citizens Utilities Company

On waters adjacent to the international boundary, certain gaging stations are maintained by the United States (or Canada) under agreement with Canada (or the United States), and the records are obtained and compiled in a manner equally acceptable to both countries. These stations are designated as "international gaging stations."

## SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

### Streamflow

Runoff for the 2002 water year was in the below-normal range to the normal range throughout New Hampshire and Vermont, (below normal refers to the lower quartile of record, above normal refers to the upper quartile of record, and normal refers to the two middle quartiles). The basis of the above-normal, normal, and below-normal ranges is a 30-year reference period (October 1971 through September 2000). Annual runoff was in the below-normal range for 33 streamflow-gaging stations with long-term records primarily in the Androscoggin, Saco, Piscataqua, Merrimack, and southern half of Connecticut, southern portions of the St. Lawrence (including the Winooski) River Basins. Runoff was in the normal range at 19 stations, primarily in the northern half of the Connecticut and northern parts of the St. Lawrence River Basins (Lamoille and Missisquoi Rivers).



**Figure 3.** Comparison of discharge at two long-term index-gaging stations during the 2002 water year with median discharge for period 1971-2000.

The 2002 monthly and annual mean discharges and the monthly and annual median discharges for the reference period of 1971-2000 are shown in [figure 3](#) for stations on the Pemigewasset River at Plymouth, N.H., and Dog River at Northfield Falls, Vt. These stations recorded 2002 water-year runoff of 76 and 81 percent of median, respectively (compared to 80 and 82 percent a year ago for each station) and were used with other stations as indicators of monthly runoff across both States. The following table is a summary of mean runoff for a number of stations using the 30-year reference period (October 1971 through September 2000).

Station No.	Mean runoff in 2002 water year		
	Mean ft <sup>3</sup> /s	Percent of median	Range
01054000	2,169	87	below normal
01064500	696	70	below normal
01073500	139	48	below normal
01076500	1,031	76	below normal
01078000	81.2	54	below normal
01092000	3,254	60	below normal
01138500	5,164	100	normal
01152500	255	61	below normal
01154500	8,427	85	below normal
01161000	420	55	below normal
01334000	190	84	below normal
04282500	789	73	below normal
04287000	106	81	below normal
04292500	1,431	107	normal
04293500	1,013	104	normal
04296000	234	118	normal

Additional statistics for each station in this report are provided in the tables of daily mean discharges. Monthly flow hydrographs from the network are also available through the World Wide Web at:

<http://nh.water.usgs.gov/WaterData/curr.htm>

<http://vt.water.usgs.gov/WaterData/curr.htm>

## Floods and Droughts

Flooding occurred on April 14-17, 2002, across northern to central New Hampshire and Vermont. Rainfall amounts across the area ranged from 1 to 3 inches with some locally higher amounts. The combination of excessive rainfall, snowmelt, and frozen ground led to significant runoff. In the Connecticut River Basin, the Upper Ammonoosuc River gage near Groveton, New Hampshire recorded flows greater than a 50-year but less than a 100-year flood. The Passumpsic River station at Passumpsic, Vt., also recorded flows greater than a 25-year but less than a 50-year flood during this April event.

Flooding also occurred on June 12-13, 2002, across northern Vermont. Rainfall amounts across the area ranged from 3 to 5 inches with some locally higher amounts. In the St. Lawrence River Basin, the Missisquoi River station near North Troy, Vt., recorded a new maximum discharge of 11,500 ft<sup>3</sup>/s on June 12. On the basis of 72 years of record, this flow was greater than a 100-year flood. The Black River station at Coventry, Vt., recorded flows greater than a 25-year but less than a 50-year flood during this June event.

Annual peak discharges at streamflow-gaging stations were recorded during the months of April, May, and June across the two States. The recurrence intervals of annual peak discharges at most stations were less than 5 years (peaks having a 1 in 5 chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year) and ranged from less than a 2-year to greater than a 100-year recurrence interval throughout the water year.

Minimum streamflows occurred during October 2001, and the late summer months of August and September 2002. During these months, runoff generally declined to about 99-percent flow duration (percent of time daily flows will be equaled or exceeded) across both States. As a result, 17 streamflow-gaging stations with long-term records measured record low monthly streamflows. In the Piscataqua River Basin, the Oyster River station near Durham, N.H., recorded the lowest annual mean in its 69-year history.

## Reservoir Storage

The total combined usable storage of 5 major reservoirs in both States is 22,436 million cubic feet. At the beginning of the water year, the actual usable storage from these reservoirs was 14,123 million cubic feet or 63 percent of capacity. Average reservoir storage remained at 65 percent of capacity through December, then followed a steady seasonal decline to a minimum capacity for the water year of 48 percent by the end of February. Average reservoir storage then increased to a maximum average capacity of 93 percent for the water year by the end of May and finally declined seasonally to a capacity of 65 percent at the end of September, which is a combined usable storage of 14,250 million cubic feet.

## Ground-Water Levels

The ground-water observation-well network consisted of 26 wells in New Hampshire, and 12 wells in Vermont, during the 2002 water year. Most observation wells are of small diameter and located in sandy material.

The monthly conditions summarized below are based on levels from observation wells across New Hampshire and Vermont from October 2001 to September 2002. The terms used below are defined as follows: **below-normal** refers to the lower quartile of ranked, monthly ground-water-level readings, **above-normal** refers to the upper quartile, and **normal** refers to the two middle quartiles.

Ground-water conditions in New Hampshire were generally in the **below-normal** range from October through January 2002 and in places remained **below-normal** for much of the water year with some new period-of-record extremes at long-term wells as noted below.

Listed in the following sections are the monthly ground-water conditions, summarized by general trends and exceptions.

**October** Ground-water levels at the end of October were generally **below-normal** throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.

**November** Ground-water levels at the end of November were generally **below-normal** throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.

**December** Ground-water levels at the end of December were generally **below-normal** throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.

**January** Ground-water levels at the end of January were generally **below-normal** throughout New Hampshire and Vermont except for extreme northern Vermont, which was **normal** to **above-normal**.

**February** Ground-water levels at the end of February were generally **normal** north of the Lakes Region in New Hampshire but remained **below-normal** in the lower Merrimack and Piscataqua River Basins of southern New Hampshire. In Vermont, ground-water levels were **normal** in the Missisquoi, upper Winooski, Hudson, and lower Connecticut River Basins and remained **below-normal** throughout much of the remaining parts of the St. Lawrence River Basin.

**March** Ground-water levels at the end of March were generally **below-normal** throughout all of New Hampshire. In Vermont, ground-water levels were also **below-normal** in the St. Lawrence basin but in the **normal** range throughout the Connecticut and Hudson River Basins.

**April** Ground-water levels at the end of April were generally **below-normal** throughout all of central New Hampshire and **normal** north of the White Mountains. In Vermont, ground-water levels were generally **normal** except in the Lake Champlain valley, which was **below-normal**.

**May** Ground-water levels at the end of May were generally **normal** throughout much of New Hampshire and Vermont but remained **below-normal** in Merrimack and Rockingham Counties of southeastern New Hampshire and within the Lake Champlain Basin of Vermont.

**June** Ground-water levels at the end of June were generally **normal** to **above-normal** throughout much of New Hampshire and Vermont but remained **below-normal** within the Merrimack River valley and lakes region of south-central New Hampshire and within the Lake Champlain Basin of western Vermont.



**July** Ground-water levels at the end of July were generally in the **normal** range throughout much of New Hampshire except for the Merrimack and Saco River Basins in New Hampshire, which were **below-normal**. In Vermont, ground-water levels were generally **normal** in southern and **above-normal** in northern sections.

**August** Ground-water levels at the end of August were generally **below-normal** throughout most of New Hampshire and Vermont except for Lamoille and Caledonia Counties of north-central Vermont, which were **normal to above-normal** and the lower Merrimack River Basin in New Hampshire, which were **normal**.

**September** Ground-water levels at the end of September were generally **below-normal** throughout most of New Hampshire except for extreme southern and coastal areas, which were **normal**. In Vermont, ground-water conditions were **normal** in northeastern to northcentral Vermont but **below-normal** in northwestern areas of the State.

The following long-term observation wells, consisting of wells dating back into the 1960s, recorded new extreme low water levels for the period of record during the 2002 water year during the months noted.

Morristown, VT (MPW 1) in October

Errol, NH (ETW 1) in October

Franklin, NH (FKW 1) in December, January, February

Berkshire, VT (BKW 1) in August

Hartland, VT (HLW 54) in August

Hydrographs for each of the ground-water-station records contained in this report provide additional information on water-level trends. Monthly conditions data from the network are also available through the World Wide Web at:

<http://nh.water.usgs.gov/WaterData/curr.htm>

## SPECIAL NETWORKS AND PROGRAMS

**The National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program** of the U.S. Geological Survey 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; provide an improved understanding of the primary natural and human factors affecting these observed conditions and trends; and provide information that supports development and evaluation of management, regulatory, and monitoring decisions by other agencies.

Assessment activities are being conducted in 59 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/>



## EXPLANATION OF THE RECORDS

The surface-water and ground-water records published in this report are for the 2002 water year that began October 1, 2001, and ended September 30, 2002. A calendar of the water year is provided on the inside of the front cover. The records contain streamflow data, stage and content data for lakes and reservoirs, water-quality data for surface water, and ground-water-level data.

The locations of the stations and wells where the data were collected are shown in [figures 1 and 2](#). The following sections of the introductory text are presented to provide users with a more detailed explanation of how the hydrologic data published in this report were collected, analyzed, computed, and arranged for presentation.

### Station Identification Numbers

Each data station, whether streamgage or well, in this report is assigned a unique identification number. The number usually is assigned when a station is first established and is retained for that station indefinitely. The systems used by the U.S. Geological Survey to assign identification numbers for surface-water stations and for ground-water well sites differ, but both are based on geographic location. The “downstream-order” system is used for surface-water stations and the “latitude-longitude” system is used for wells.

### Downstream Order System

Since October 1, 1950, the order of listing hydrologic-station records in U.S. Geological Survey reports is in a downstream direction along the main stream. All stations on a tributary entering upstream from a mainstream station are listed before that station. A station on a tributary that enters between two mainstream stations is listed between them. A similar order is followed in listing stations on first rank, second rank, and other ranks of tributaries. The rank of any tributary with respect to the stream to which it is immediately tributary is indicated by an indentation in the “List of Stations” in the front of this report. Each indentation represents one rank. This downstream order

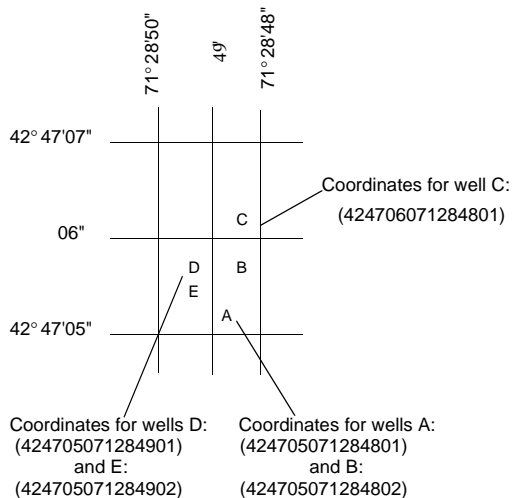
and system of identification shows which stations are on tributaries between any two stations and the rank of the tributary on which each station is situated.

The station-identification number is assigned according to downstream order. In assigning station numbers, no distinction is made between continuous-record stations and other types of stations; therefore, the station number for a continuous-record station indicates downstream-order position in a list made up of all 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 station number (usually eight digits, but sometimes nine or more if needed) appears just to the left of the station name. The first two digits indicate the Part number (formerly used in Water-Supply Papers to designate major river systems) and the last six or more digits indicate the downstream order within the Part. For example, in the station number 01076500, “01” is the Part number for “North Atlantic Slope Basins” and “076500” is the downstream order number.

### Latitude-Longitude System

The identification numbers for wells are assigned according to the grid system of latitude and longitude. 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 1-second grid. This site-identification number, once assigned, is a pure number and has no locational significance. In the rare instance where the initial determination of latitude and longitude is found to be in error, the station will retain its initial identification number; however, its true latitude and longitude will be listed in the LOCATION paragraph of the station description. (See [figure 4](#).)

A local well number is also used in this report. The local well number consists of a 2-letter code for the town in which the well is located followed by a “W” signifying that it is a well, and a sequential number. The local number is used to identify the location of observation wells on [figure 2](#).



**Figure 4.** System for numbering wells and miscellaneous sites (latitude and longitude).

## 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 discharges 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 with/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 “Crest-stage 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 complete-record stations for which data are given in this report are shown in [figure 1](#). Some

streamflow data from the network, as well as information for individual sites, are available through the world wide web at:

<http://nh.water.usgs.gov/WaterData/WaterDataPage.htm>

## 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 relationships 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 relationship 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.

Continuous records of stage are obtained with digital recorders that punch stage values on paper tapes at selected time intervals or with electronic data loggers which collect, store, and transmit data via satellite. Measurements of discharge are made with current meters using methods adopted by the U.S. Geological Survey as a result of experience accumulated since 1880. These methods are described in standard textbooks, Water-Supply Paper 2175, and the U.S. Geological Survey Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations (TWRI’s), Book 3, Chapter A1 through A19 and Book 8, Chapters A2 and B2. The methods are consistent with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards and generally follow the standards of the International Organization for standards (ISO).

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 the 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 discharge is computed by applying the daily mean stage (gage height) to the stage-discharge rating table or by applying each recorded stage in the day to the rating table and computing the mean from the sum of the individual discharges. 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 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.

At some gaging stations, acoustic velocity meter (AVM) systems are used to compute discharge. The AVM system measures the stream's velocity at one or more paths in the cross section. Coefficients are developed to relate this path velocity to the mean velocity in the cross section. Because the AVM sensors are fixed in position, the adjustment coefficients generally vary with stage. Cross-sectional area curves are developed to relate stage, recorded as noted above, to cross section area. Discharge is computed by multiplying path velocity by the appropriate stage related coefficient and area.

In computing records of lake or reservoir contents, it is necessary to have available surveys, curves, or tables defining the relationship 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 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 the lapsed time since the last survey increases. Discharges 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. This happens when the recorder stops or otherwise fails to operate properly, intakes are plugged, the float is frozen in the well, or for various other reasons. For such periods, the daily discharges are estimated from the recorded range in stage, previous or following record, discharge measurements, weather records, comparison with other station records from the same or nearby basins, and regression analysis. 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 next two 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. These changes represent the results of a pilot program to reformat the annual water-data report to meet current user needs and data preferences.

The records published for each continuous-record surface-water discharge station (gaging station) now consist of four parts, the manuscript or station description; the data table of daily mean values of

discharge for the current water year with summary data; a tabular statistical summary of monthly mean flow data for a designated period, by water year; and 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.

#### *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 that 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.**--Because of new information, published records occasionally are found to be incorrect, and revisions are printed in later reports. Listed under this heading are all the reports in which revisions have been published for the station and the 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)" that only the instantaneous minimum was revised; and "(P)" 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 sea level (see glossary), and a condensed history of the types, locations and datums of previous gages are given under this heading.

**REMARKS.**--All periods of estimated daily discharge will either be identified by date in this paragraph of the station description for water-discharge stations or flagged in the daily discharge table. (See next section, "Identifying Estimated Daily Discharge.") If a REMARKS paragraph 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, and to conditions that affect natural flow at the station. In addition, information may be presented pertaining to average discharge data for the period of record; to extremes data for the period of record and the current year; 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 U.S. Geological Survey by a cooperating organization are identified here.

**EXTREMES OUTSIDE PERIOD OF RECORD.**--Included here is 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 U.S. Geological Survey.

**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 in 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.

#### *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 second 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 \_ - \_, 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 \_ - \_," 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 annual total discharge is adjusted for reservoir storage or diversion. The adjusted figures are identified by a 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, on a recession from or rise toward a higher peak in the adjoining year. In this case, the maximum peak flow is given in the table and the maximum flow may be reported in a footnote or in the REMARKS paragraph in the manuscript.

**MAXIMUM PEAK STAGE.**--The maximum instantaneous peak stage occurring for the water year or designated period. Occasionally the maximum stage 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 equal 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 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 has been exceeded 10 percent of the time for the designated period.

**50 PERCENT EXCEEDS.**--The discharge that has been exceeded 50 percent of the time for the designated period.



**90 PERCENT EXCEEDS.**--The discharge that has been exceeded 90 percent of the time 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 annual maximum stage and discharge at crest-stage stations, and the second is a table of discharge measurements at low-flow partial-record 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 are generally 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 Records

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 their true values; "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<sup>3</sup>/s; to the nearest tenth between

1.0 and 10 ft<sup>3</sup>/s; to whole numbers between 10 and 1,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s; and to 3 significant figures for more than 1,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s. The number of significant figures used is based solely on the magnitude of the discharge value. Discharges listed for partial-record stations and miscellaneous sites are generally shown to three significant figures.

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 used in the preparation of the records in this publication, such as discharge-measurement notes, gage-height records, temperature measurements, and rating tables is on file in the District Office. Also, most of the daily mean discharges are in computer-readable form and have been analyzed statistically. Information on the availability of the unpublished information or on the results of statistical analyses of the published records may be obtained from the New Hampshire-Vermont District Office at the address given on the back of the title page or by telephone (603) 226-7800.

### 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 once 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 careful 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 recorded at short intervals. Some records of water quality, such as temperature and specific conductance, may be obtained through continuous recordings; however, because of costs, most data are obtained only monthly or less frequently. In this report, continuing-record stations where data are collected on a continuous basis are referred to as **continuous-recording stations**. Locations of stations for which records on the quality of surface water appear in this report are shown in [figure 1](#).

## 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 miscellaneous sampling sites appear in separate tables following the table of discharge measurements at miscellaneous sites.

## Onsite Measurements and Sample Collection

In obtaining water-quality data, a major concern is to assure that the data obtained represent the in-situ quality of the water. To do this, certain measurements, such as water temperature, pH, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, and specific conductance need to be made on-site 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-Resources Investigations,” Book 1, Chap. D2; Book 3, Chap. A1, A3, and A4; Book 9, Chap. A1-A9. These references are listed in the PUBLICATIONS ON TECHNIQUES OF WATER-RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS section of this report. These methods are consistent with ASTM standards and generally follow ISO standards.

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 Water-Quality Assessment Program are usually 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.

Water-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.

## Water Temperature

Water temperatures are measured at all water-quality stations. 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, both mean, maximum, and minimum temperatures for each day are published.

## Laboratory Measurements

Samples are analyzed locally for specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature. All other samples were analyzed in the Geological Survey laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado. Methods used to analyze sediment samples and to compute sediment records are described in the TWRI Book 5, Chapter C1. Methods used by the U.S. Geological Survey laboratories are given in the TWRI Book 1, Chapter D2; Book 3, Chapter C2; and Book 5, Chapters A1, A3, A4, and A5. These methods are consistent with ASTM standards and generally follow ISO standards.

## Data Presentation

For continuing-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, and extremes for parameters currently measured daily. Tables of water-quality data, including 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, and dissolved oxygen data from water-quality monitor recorders 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, as appropriate, is provided with each continuing-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 daily record are given for the parameters individually.

**INSTRUMENTATION.**--Information on instrumentation is given only if a water-quality monitor, or temperature recording device is in operation at a station.

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

**EXTREMES.**--Maximums and minimums are given only for parameters measured daily or more frequently. Extremes are provided for both the period of daily record and for the current water year. If a value from a miscellaneous measurement from outside the period of daily record has higher maximum or lower minimum, that value is reported in a descriptive heading for extremes outside the period of daily record.

**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 U.S. Geological Survey water-quality data are encouraged to obtain all required data from the appropriate computer file to insure the most recent updates.

The surface-water-quality records for 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
<i>E</i>	Estimated value.
>	Actual value is known to be greater than the value shown.
<	Actual value is known to be less than the value shown.
<i>M</i>	Presence verified; not quantified.

## Records of Ground-Water Levels

The national network of observation wells is intended to provide a sampling and historical record of ground-water level changes in the most important aquifers. Locations of observation wells from this network in New Hampshire and Vermont are shown in [figure 2](#). Water levels measured from these 38 network wells are included in this report. Information about the availability of data in the water-level database may be obtained from the Chief, New Hampshire-Vermont District (see address on back of title page).

### Data Collection and Computation

Measurements of water levels are made in many types of wells under varying conditions, but the methods of measurement are standardized to the extent possible. The equipment and measuring techniques used at each observation well ensure that measurements at each well are of consistent accuracy and reliability.

Tables of water-level data are presented by counties arranged in alphabetical order. The prime identification number for a given well is the 15-digit number that appears in the upper left corner of the table. The secondary identification number is the local well number, an alphanumeric number, derived from the municipality in which each well is located.

Water-level records are obtained from direct measurements with a steel or electric tape or from a water-stage recorder. The water-level measurements in this report are given in feet with reference to land-surface datum. Land-surface datum is a datum plane

that is approximately at land surface at each well. If known, the elevation of the land-surface datum is given in the well description.

Water levels are reported to as many significant figures as can be justified by the local conditions. Accordingly, most measurements are reported to a hundredth of a foot, but one is given to five-hundredths of a foot.

### Data Presentation

Each well record consists of three parts, the station description, the data table of water levels observed during the water year, and the hydrograph showing water level fluctuations during the most recent five-year period. Hydrographs are based on end-of-month measurements or continuous data record (where available). The description of the well is presented first through use of descriptive headings preceding the tabular data. The comments to follow clarify information presented under the various headings.

**LOCATION.**--This paragraph follows the well-identification number and reports the latitude and longitude (given in degrees, minutes, and seconds); the hydrologic-unit number; the distance and direction from a geographic point of reference; and the owner's name.

**AQUIFER.**--This entry designates by name (if a name exists) and geologic age the aquifer(s) open to the well.

**WELL CHARACTERISTICS.**--This entry describes the well in terms of method of construction, use, diameter, depth and additional information such as casing breaks, collapsed screen, and other changes since construction.

**DATUM.**--This entry describes both the land-surface elevation at the well and the measuring point. The measuring point is described physically (such as top of collar, notch in top of casing, plug in pump base, and so on), and in relation to land surface (such as 1.3 ft above land-surface datum). The elevation of the land-surface datum is described in feet above (or below) sea level; it is reported with a precision depending on the method of determination.

**PERIOD OF RECORD.**--This entry indicates the period for which there are published records for the well. It reports the month and year of the start of publication of water-level records by the U.S. Geological Survey and the words "to current year" if the records are to be

continued into the following year. Periods for which water-level records are available, but are not published by the U.S. Geological Survey, may be noted.

**EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD.**--This entry contains the highest and lowest water levels of the period of published record, with respect to land-surface datum, and the dates of their occurrence.

## ACCESS TO USGS WATER DATA

The U.S. Geological Survey is the principal Federal water-data agency and, as such, collects and disseminates about 70 percent of the water data currently being used by numerous State, local, private, and other Federal agencies to develop and manage our water resources. As part of the U.S. Geological Survey's program of releasing water data to the public, a large-scale computerized system was developed for the storage and retrieval of water data collected through its activities. The National Water Data Storage and Retrieval System (WATSTORE) was established in 1972 to provide an effective and efficient means for the processing and maintenance of water data collected through the activities of the U.S. Geological Survey and to facilitate release of the data to the public. As of December 1996, WATSTORE was retired. It has been replaced by National Water Information System (NWIS) and incorporates many of the features of WATSTORE. The historic daily-mean and peak-flow discharge data (final) from NWIS can be accessed through the world wide web (www) via the address:

<http://water.usgs.gov>

Provisional current (monthly) conditions and real time (telemetry) information for New Hampshire and Vermont can be obtained at the following www addresses:

<http://nh.water.usgs.gov>

<http://vt.water.usgs.gov>

<http://nh.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/current/?type=flow>

<http://nh.water.usgs.gov/WaterData/curr.htm>

Information about the availability of other provisional, specific types of data or products, and user charges, can be obtained locally from each of the Water Resources Division District Offices (See address on the back of the title page.)

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

Specialized technical terms related to streamflow, water-quality, and other hydrologic data, as used in this report, are defined below. Definitions of common terms such as algae, water level, and precipitation are given in standard dictionaries. Not all terms defined in this alphabetical list apply to every State. See also table for converting inch/pound units to International System (SI) units on the inside of the back cover.

**Acid neutralizing capacity (ANC)** is the equivalent sum of all bases or base-producing materials, solutes plus particulates, in an aqueous system that can be titrated with acid to an equivalence point. This term designates titration of an "unfiltered" sample (formerly reported as alkalinity).

**Acre-foot (AC-FT, acre-ft)** is a unit of volume, commonly used to measure quantities of water used or stored, equivalent to the volume of water required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot and equivalent to 43,560 cubic feet, 325,851 gallons, or 1,233 cubic meters. (See also "Annual runoff")

**Adenosine triphosphate (ATP)** is an organic, phosphate-rich compound important in the transfer of energy in organisms. Its central role in living cells makes ATP an excellent indicator of the presence of living material in water. A measurement of ATP therefore provides a sensitive and rapid estimate of biomass. ATP is reported in micrograms per liter.

**Algal growth potential (AGP)** is the maximum algal dry weight biomass that can be produced in a natural water sample under standardized laboratory conditions. The growth potential is the algal biomass present at stationary phase and is expressed as milligrams dry weight of algae produced per liter of sample. (See also "Biomass" and "Dry weight")

**Alkalinity** is the capacity of solutes in an aqueous system to neutralize acid. This term designates titration of a "filtered" sample.

**Annual runoff** is the total quantity of water that is discharged ("runs off") from a drainage basin in a year. Data reports may present annual runoff data as volumes in acre-feet, as discharges per unit of drainage area in cubic feet per second per square mile, or as depths of water on the drainage basin in inches.

**Annual 7-day minimum** is the lowest mean value for any 7-consecutive-day period in a year. Annual 7-day minimum values are reported herein for the calendar year and the water year (October 1 through September 30). Most low-flow frequency analyses use a climatic year (April 1-March 31), which tends to prevent the low-flow period from being artificially split between adjacent years. 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.)

**Aroclor** is the registered trademark for a group of polychlorinated biphenyls that were manufactured by the Monsanto Company prior to 1976. Aroclors are assigned specific 4-digit reference numbers dependent upon molecular type and degree of substitution of the biphenyl ring hydrogen atoms by chlorine atoms. The first two digits of a numbered aroclor represent the molecular type, and the last two digits represent the percentage weight of the hydrogen-substituted chlorine.

**Artificial substrate** is a device that is purposely placed in a stream or lake for colonization of organisms. The artificial substrate simplifies the community structure by standardizing the substrate from which each sample is collected. Examples of artificial substrates are basket samplers (made of wire cages filled with clean streamside rocks) and multi-plate samplers (made of hardboard) for benthic organism collection, and plexiglass strips for periphyton collection. (See also "Substrate")

**Ash mass** is the mass or amount of residue present after the residue from the dry mass determination has been ashed in a muffle furnace at a temperature of 500 °C for 1 hour. Ash mass of zooplankton and phytoplankton is expressed in grams per cubic meter ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), and periphyton and benthic organisms in grams per square meter ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ ). (See also "Biomass" and "Dry mass")

**Aspect** is the direction toward which a slope faces with respect to the compass.

**Bacteria** are microscopic unicellular organisms, typically spherical, rodlike, or spiral and threadlike in shape, often clumped into colonies. Some bacteria cause disease, whereas others perform an essential role in nature in the recycling of materials; for example, by decomposing organic matter into a form available for reuse by plants.

**Bankfull stage**, as used in this report, is the stage at which a stream first overflows its natural banks formed by floods with 1- to 3-year recurrence intervals.

**Base discharge** (for peak discharge) is a discharge value, determined for selected stations, above which peak discharge data are published. The base discharge at each station is selected so that an average of about three peak flows per year will be published. (See also "Peak flow")

**Base flow** is sustained flow of a stream in the absence of direct runoff. It includes natural and human-induced streamflows. Natural base flow is sustained largely by ground-water discharge.

**Bedload** is material in transport that is supported primarily by the streambed. In this report, bedload is considered to consist of particles in transit from the bed to an elevation equal to the top of the bedload sampler nozzle (ranging from 0.25 to 0.5 foot) that are retained in the bedload sampler. A sample collected with a pressure-differential bedload sampler also may contain a component of the suspended load.

**Bedload discharge** (tons per day) is the rate of sediment moving as bedload, reported as dry weight, that passes through a cross section in a given time. NOTE: Bedload discharge values in this report may include a component of the suspended-sediment discharge. A correction may be necessary when computing the total sediment discharge by summing the bedload discharge and the suspended-sediment discharge. (See also "Bedload," "Dry weight," "Sediment," and "Suspended-sediment discharge")

**Bed material** is the sediment mixture of which a streambed, lake, pond, reservoir, or estuary bottom is composed. (See also "Bedload" and "Sediment")

**Benthic organisms** are the group of organisms inhabiting the bottom of an aquatic environment. They include a number of types of organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, insect larvae and nymphs, snails, clams, and crayfish. They are useful as indicators of water quality.

**Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)** is a measure of the quantity of dissolved oxygen, in milligrams per liter, necessary for the decomposition of organic matter by microorganisms, such as bacteria.

**Biomass** is the amount of living matter present at any given time, expressed as mass per unit area or volume of habitat.

**Biomass pigment ratio** is an indicator of the total proportion of periphyton that are autotrophic (plants). This is also called the Autotrophic Index.

**Blue-green algae** (*Cyanophyta*) are a group of phytoplankton organisms having a blue pigment, in addition to the



green pigment called chlorophyll. Blue-green algae often cause nuisance conditions in water. Concentrations are expressed as a number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) of sample. (See also “Phytoplankton”)

**Bottom material** (See “Bed material”)

**Bulk electrical conductivity** is the combined electrical conductivity of all material within a doughnut-shaped volume surrounding an induction probe. Bulk conductivity is affected by different physical and chemical properties of the material including the dissolved solids content of the pore water and lithology and porosity of the rock.

**Cells/volume** refers to the number of cells of any organism that is counted by using a microscope and grid or counting cell. Many planktonic organisms are multicelled and are counted according to the number of contained cells per sample volume, and are generally reported as cells or units per milliliter (mL) or liter (L).

**Cells volume** (biovolume) determination is one of several common methods used to estimate biomass of algae in aquatic systems. Cell members of algae are frequently used in aquatic surveys as an indicator of algal production. However, cell numbers alone cannot represent true biomass because of considerable cell-size variation among the algal species. Cell volume ( $\mu\text{m}^3$ ) is determined by obtaining critical cell measurements or cell dimensions (for example, length, width, height, or radius) for 20 to 50 cells of each 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 formulae used to compute biovolume are as follows:

$$\text{sphere } \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \quad \text{cone } \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h \quad \text{cylinder } \pi r^2 h.$$

pi ( $\pi$ ) is the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle; pi = 3.14159....

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

**Cfs-day** (See “Cubic foot per second-day”)

**Channel bars**, as used in this report, are the lowest prominent geomorphic features higher than the channel bed.

**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)”]

***Clostridium perfringens*** (*C. perfringens*) is a spore-forming bacterium that is common in the feces of human and other warmblooded animals. Clostridial spores are being used experimentally as an indicator of past fecal contamination and presence of microorganisms that are resistant to disinfection and environmental stresses. (See also “Bacteria”)

**Coliphages** are viruses that infect and replicate in coliform bacteria. They are indicative of sewage contamination of water and of the survival and transport of viruses in the environment.

**Color unit** is produced by 1 milligram per liter of platinum in the form of the chloroplatinate ion. Color is expressed in units of the platinum-cobalt scale.

**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 where data are collected with sufficient frequency to define daily mean values and variations within a day.

**Control** designates a feature in the channel that physically affects the water-surface elevation and thereby determines the stage-discharge relation at the gage. 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,  $\text{ft}^3/\text{s}$ ) 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 or approximately 449 gallons per minute, or 0.02832 cubic meters per second. The term “second-foot” sometimes is used synonymously with “cubic foot per second” but is now obsolete.

**Cubic foot per second-day** (CFS-DAY, Cfs-day, [(ft<sup>3</sup>/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, 1.98347 acre-feet, 646,317 gallons, or 2,446.6 cubic meters. The daily mean discharges reported in the daily value data tables are numerically equal to the daily volumes in cfs-days, and the totals also represent volumes in cfs-days.

**Cubic foot per second per square mile** [CFSM, (ft<sup>3</sup>/s)/mi<sup>2</sup>] 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 concentration of suspended sediment passing a stream cross section during a 24-hour day. (See also “Sediment” and “Suspended-sediment concentration”)

**Daily-record station** is a site where data are collected with sufficient frequency to develop a record of one or more data values per day. The frequency of data collection can range from continuous recording to periodic sample or data collection on a daily or near-daily basis.

**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 are usually 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 UTM coordinates. (See also “Gage datum,” “Land-surface datum,” “National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929,” and “North American Vertical Datum of 1988”)

**Diatoms** are the unicellular or colonial algae having a siliceous shell. Their concentrations are expressed as number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) of sample. (See also “Phytoplankton”)

**Diel** is of or pertaining to a 24-hour period of time; a regular daily cycle.

**Discharge**, or **flow**, is the rate that matter passes through a cross section of a stream channel or other water body per unit of time. The term commonly refers to the volume of water (including, unless otherwise stated, any sediment or other constituents suspended or dissolved in the water) that passes a cross section in a stream channel, canal, pipeline, etc., within a given period of time (cubic feet per second). Discharge also can apply to the rate at which constituents, such as suspended sediment, bedload, and dissolved or suspended chemicals, pass through a cross section, in which cases the quantity is expressed as the mass of constituent that passes the cross section in a given period of time (tons per day).

**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 and State agencies that collect water-quality data. Determinations of “dissolved” constituent concentrations are made on sample water that has been filtered.

**Dissolved oxygen** (DO) is the molecular oxygen (oxygen gas) dissolved in water. The concentration in water 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 concentration. Photosynthesis and respiration by plants commonly cause diurnal variations in dissolved-oxygen concentration in water from some streams.

**Dissolved-solids concentration** in water is the quantity of dissolved material in a sample of water. It 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 the analytical determination, the bicarbonate (generally a major dissolved component of water) is converted to carbonate. In the mathematical calculation, the bicarbonate value, in milligrams per liter, is multiplied by 0.4926 to convert it to carbonate. Alternatively, alkalinity concentration (as mg/L CaCO<sub>3</sub>) can be converted to carbonate concentration by multiplying by 0.60.

**Diversity index** (H) (Shannon index) is a numerical expression of evenness of distribution of aquatic organisms. The formula for diversity index is:

$$\bar{d} = - \sum_{i=1}^s \frac{n_i}{n} \log_2 \frac{n_i}{n} ,$$

where  $n_i$  is the number of individuals per taxon,  $n$  is the total number of individuals, and  $s$  is the total number of taxa in

the sample of the community. Index values range from zero, when all the organisms in the sample are the same, to some positive number, when some or all of the organisms in the sample are different.

**Drainage area** of a stream at a specific location is that area upstream from the location, measured in a horizontal plane, that has a common outlet at the site for its surface runoff from precipitation that normally drains by gravity into a stream. Drainage areas 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 contains 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")

**Embeddedness** is the degree to which gravel-sized and larger particles are surrounded or enclosed by finer-sized particles. (See also "Substrate embeddedness class")

**Enterococcus bacteria** are commonly found in the feces of humans and other warmblooded animals. Although some strains are ubiquitous and not related to fecal pollution, the presence of enterococci in water is an indication of fecal pollution and the possible presence of enteric pathogens. Enterococcus bacteria are those bacteria that produce pink to red colonies with black or reddish-brown precipitate after incubation at 41 °C on mE agar (nutrient medium for bacterial growth) and subsequent transfer to EIA medium. Enterococci include *Streptococcus faecalis*, *Streptococcus faecium*, *Streptococcus avium*, and their variants. (See also "Bacteria")

**EPT Index** is the total number of distinct taxa within the insect orders Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera. This index summarizes the taxa richness within the aquatic insects that are generally considered pollution sensitive; the index usually decreases with pollution.

**Escherichia coli** (*E. coli*) are bacteria present in the intestine and feces of warmblooded animals. *E. coli* are a member species of the fecal coliform group of indicator bacteria. In the laboratory, they are defined as those bacteria that produce yellow or yellow-brown colonies on a filter pad saturated with urea substrate broth after primary culturing for 22 to 24 hours at 44.5 °C on mTEC medium (nutrient medium for bacterial growth). Their concentrations are expressed as number of colonies per 100 mL of sample. (See also "Bacteria")

**Estimated (E) concentration value** 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 qualitatively identified 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 (<).

**Euglenoids** (*Euglenophyta*) are a group of algae that are usually free-swimming and rarely creeping. They have the ability to grow either photosynthetically in the light or heterotrophically in the dark. (See also "Phytoplankton")

**Extractable organic halides** (EOX) are organic compounds that contain halogen atoms such as chlorine. These organic compounds are semivolatile and extractable by ethyl acetate from air-dried streambed sediment. The ethyl acetate extract is combusted, and the concentration is determined by microcoulometric determination of the halides formed. The concentration is reported as micrograms of chlorine per gram of the dry weight of the streambed sediment.

**Fecal coliform bacteria** are present in the intestines or feces of warmblooded animals. They often are used as indicators of the sanitary quality of the water. In the laboratory, they are defined as all organisms that produce blue colonies within 24 hours when incubated at 44.5 °C plus or minus 0.2 °C on M-FC medium (nutrient medium for bacterial growth). Their concentrations are expressed as number of colonies per 100 mL of sample. (See also "Bacteria")

**Fecal streptococcal bacteria** are present in the intestines of warmblooded animals and are ubiquitous in the environment. They are characterized as gram-positive, cocci bacteria that are capable of growth in brain-heart infusion broth. In the laboratory, they are defined as all the organisms that produce red or pink colonies within 48 hours at 35 °C plus

or minus 1.0 °C on KF-streptococcus medium (nutrient medium for bacterial growth). Their concentrations are expressed as number of colonies per 100 mL of sample. (See also “Bacteria”)

**Fire algae** (*Pyrrhophyta*) are free-swimming unicells characterized by a red pigment spot. (See also “Phytoplankton”)

**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 a horizontal surface used as a zero point for measurement of stage or gage height. This surface usually is located slightly below the lowest point of the stream bottom such that the gage height is usually slightly greater than the maximum depth of water. Because the gage datum itself is not an actual physical object, the datum usually is defined by specifying the elevations of permanent reference marks such as bridge abutments and survey monuments, and the gage is set to agree with the reference marks. Gage datum is a local datum that is maintained independently of any national geodetic datum. However, if the elevation of the gage datum relative to the national datum (North American Vertical Datum of 1988 or National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929) has been determined, then the gage readings can be converted to elevations above the national datum by adding the elevation of the gage datum to the gage reading.

**Gage height** (G.H.) is the water-surface elevation, in feet above the gage datum. If the water surface is below the gage datum, the gage height is negative. Gage height often is used interchangeably with the more general term “stage,” although gage height is more appropriate when used in reference to a reading on a gage.

**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.

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

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

**Geomorphic channel units**, as used in this report, are fluvial geomorphic descriptors of channel shape and stream velocity. Pools, riffles, and runs are types of geomorphic channel units considered for National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program habitat sampling.

**Green algae** have chlorophyll pigments similar in color to those of higher green plants. Some forms produce algae mats or floating “moss” in lakes. Their concentrations are expressed as number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) of sample. (See also “Phytoplankton”)

**Habitat**, as used in this report, includes all nonliving (physical) aspects of the aquatic ecosystem, although living components like aquatic macrophytes and riparian vegetation also are usually included. Measurements of habitat are typically made over a wider geographic scale than are measurements of species distribution.

**Habitat quality index** is the qualitative description (level 1) of instream habitat and riparian conditions surrounding the reach sampled. Scores range from 0 to 100 percent with higher scores indicative of desirable habitat conditions for aquatic life. Index only applicable to wadable streams.

**Hardness** of water is a physical-chemical characteristic that commonly is recognized by the increased quantity of soap required to produce lather. It is computed as the sum of equivalents of polyvalent cations (primarily calcium and magnesium) and is expressed as the equivalent concentration of calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>).

**High tide** is the maximum height reached by each rising tide. The high-high and low-high tides are the higher and lower of the two high tides, respectively, of each tidal day. See NOAA web site:

<http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/tideglos.html>

**Hilsenhoff’s Biotic Index** (HBI) is an indicator of organic pollution that uses tolerance values to weight taxa abundances; usually increases with pollution. It is calculated as follows:

$$HBI = \frac{\sum (n)(a)}{N}$$

where *n* is the number of individuals of each taxon, *a* is the tolerance value of each taxon, and *N* is the total number of organisms in the sample.

**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 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 USGS. Each hydrologic unit is identified by an 8-digit number.

**Inch** (IN., in.), 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 uniformly distributed on it. (See also “Annual runoff”)

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

**Island**, as used in this report, is a mid-channel bar that has permanent woody vegetation, is flooded once a year on average, and remains stable except during large flood events.

**Laboratory reporting level (LRL)** is generally 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. [Note: In several previous NWQL documents (NWQL Technical Memorandum 98.07, 1998), the LRL was called the nondetection value or NDV—a term that is no longer used.]

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

**Latent heat flux** (often used interchangeably with latent heat-flux density) is the amount of heat energy that converts water from liquid to vapor (evaporation) or from vapor to liquid (condensation) across a specified cross-sectional area per unit time. Usually expressed in watts per square meter.

**Light-attenuation coefficient**, also known as the extinction coefficient, is a measure of water clarity. Light is attenuated according to the Lambert-Beer equation:

$$I = I_o e^{-\lambda L} ,$$

where  $I_o$  is the source light intensity,  $I$  is the light intensity at length  $L$  (in meters) from the source,  $\lambda$  is the light-attenuation coefficient, and  $e$  is the base of the natural logarithm. The light-attenuation coefficient is defined as

$$\lambda = -\frac{1}{L} \log_e \frac{I}{I_o} .$$

**Lipid** is any one of a family of compounds that are insoluble in water and that make up one of the principal components of living cells. Lipids include fats, oils, waxes, and steroids. Many environmental contaminants such as organochlorine pesticides are lipophilic.

**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 usually are 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.

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

**Metamorphic stage** refers to the stage of development that an organism exhibits during its transformation from an immature form to an adult form. This developmental process exists for most insects, and the degree of difference from the immature stage to the adult form varies from relatively slight to pronounced, with many intermediates. Examples of metamorphic stages of insects are egg-larva-adult or egg-nymph-adult.

**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.

**Methylene blue active substances** (MBAS) are apparent detergents. The determination depends on the formation of a blue color when methylene blue dye reacts with synthetic anionic detergent compounds.

**Micrograms per gram** (UG/G,  $\mu\text{g/g}$ ) 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,  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ ) 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,  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) 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. One microgram per liter is equivalent to 1 part per billion.

**Microsiemens per centimeter** (US/CM,  $\mu\text{S/cm}$ ) 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,  $\text{mg/L}$ ) 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 milligrams per liter 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**, miscellaneous station, or miscellaneous sampling site is a site where streamflow, sediment, and/or water-quality data or water-quality or sediment samples 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 in a river basin.

**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.

**Multiple-plate samplers** are artificial substrates of known surface area used for obtaining benthic invertebrate samples. They consist of a series of spaced, hardboard plates on an eyebolt.

**Nanograms per liter** (NG/L,  $\text{ng/L}$ ) 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 of 1929) is a fixed reference adopted as a standard geodetic datum for elevations determined by leveling. It was formerly 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”)

**Natural substrate** refers to any naturally occurring immersed or submersed solid surface, such as a rock or tree, upon which an organism lives. (See also “Substrate”)

**Nekton** are the consumers in the aquatic environment and consist of large free-swimming organisms that are capable of sustained, directed mobility.

**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 Vertical Datum of 1988** (NAVD 1988) is a fixed reference adopted as the official civilian vertical datum for elevations determined by Federal surveying and mapping activities in the United States. This datum was established in 1991 by minimum-constraint adjustment of the Canadian, Mexican, and United States first-order terrestrial leveling networks.

**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 sediment. May be reported as dissolved organic carbon (DOC), particulate organic carbon (POC), 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 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<sup>2</sup>), 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.

**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 USGS 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**, as 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
Cobble	>64 - 256	Manual measurement
Boulder	>256	Manual measurement

The particle-size distributions given in this report are not necessarily representative of all particles in transport in the stream. For the sedimentation method, 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, mass, or volume.

**Percent shading** is a measure of the amount of sunlight potentially reaching the stream. A clinometer is used to measure left and right bank canopy angles. These values are added together, divided by 180, and multiplied by 100 to compute percentage of shade.

**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. Although 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 standard units 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 affected, in part, by the hydrogen-ion activity of water. Biological processes including growth, distribution of organisms, and toxicity of

the water to organisms also are affected, in part, by the hydrogen-ion activity of water.

**Phytoplankton** is the plant part of the plankton. They are usually microscopic, and their movement is subject to the water currents. Phytoplankton growth is dependent upon solar radiation and nutrient substances. Because they are able to incorporate as well as release materials to the surrounding water, the phytoplankton have a profound effect upon the quality of the water. They are the primary food producers in the aquatic environment and commonly are known as algae. (See also "Plankton")

**Picocurie (PC, pCi)** is one trillionth ( $1 \times 10^{-12}$ ) of the amount of radioactive nuclide represented by a curie (Ci). A curie is the quantity of radioactive nuclide that yields  $3.7 \times 10^{10}$  radioactive disintegrations per second (dps). A picocurie yields 0.037 dps, or 2.22 dpm (disintegrations per minute).

**Plankton** is the community of suspended, floating, or weakly swimming organisms that live in the open water of lakes and rivers. Concentrations are expressed as a number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) of sample.

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

**Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs)** are industrial chemicals that are mixtures of chlorinated naphthalene compounds. They have properties and applications similar to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and have been identified in commercial PCB preparations.

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

**Primary productivity** is a measure of the rate at which new organic matter is formed and accumulated through photosynthetic and chemosynthetic activity of producer organisms (chiefly, green plants). The rate of primary production is estimated by measuring the amount of oxygen released (oxygen method) or the amount of carbon assimilated (carbon method) by the plants.

**Primary productivity (carbon method)** is expressed as milligrams of carbon per area per unit time [ $\text{mg C}/(\text{m}^2/\text{time})$ ] for periphyton and macrophytes or per volume [ $\text{mg C}/(\text{m}^3/\text{time})$ ] for phytoplankton. The carbon method defines the amount of carbon dioxide consumed as measured by radioactive carbon (carbon-14). The carbon-14 method is of greater

sensitivity than the oxygen light and dark bottle method and is preferred for use with unenriched water samples. Unit time may be either the hour or day, depending on the incubation period. (See also “Primary productivity”)

**Primary productivity (oxygen method)** is expressed as milligrams of oxygen per area per unit time [mg O/(m<sup>2</sup>/time)] for periphyton and macrophytes or per volume [mg O/(m<sup>3</sup>/time)] for phytoplankton. The oxygen method defines production and respiration rates as estimated from changes in the measured dissolved-oxygen concentration. The oxygen light and dark bottle method is preferred if the rate of primary production is sufficient for accurate measurements to be made within 24 hours. Unit time may be either the hour or day, depending on the incubation period. (See also “Primary productivity”)

**Radioisotopes** are isotopic forms of elements 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.

**Reach**, as used in this report, is a length of stream that is chosen to represent a uniform set of physical, chemical, and biological conditions within a segment. It is the principal sampling unit for collecting physical, chemical, and biological data.

**Recoverable from bed (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 nonexceedance 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<sub>10</sub>) 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 nonexceedances of the 7Q<sub>10</sub> occur less than 10 years after the previous nonexceedance, half occur less than 7 years after, and about one-eighth occur more than 20 years after the previous nonexceedance. 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<sub>10</sub>.

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

**Return period** (See “Recurrence interval”)

**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 mileage** is the curvilinear distance, in miles, measured upstream from the mouth along the meandering path of a stream channel in accordance with Bulletin No. 14 (October 1968) of the Water Resources Council and typically is used to denote location along a river.

**Run**, as used in this report, is a relatively shallow part of a stream with moderate velocity and little or no surface turbulence.

**Runoff** is the quantity of water that is discharged (“runs off”) from a drainage basin during a given time period. Runoff data may be presented as volumes in acre-feet, as mean discharges per unit of drainage area in cubic feet per second per square mile, or as depths of water on the drainage basin in inches. (See also “Annual runoff”)

**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 originates mostly from disintegrated rocks; when transported by, suspended in, or deposited from water, it is referred to as “fluvial sediment.” Sediment 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 affected by environmental and land-use factors. Some major factors are topography, soil characteristics, land cover, and depth and intensity of precipitation.

**Sensible heat flux** (often used interchangeably with latent sensible heat-flux density) is the amount of heat energy that moves by turbulent transport through the air across a specified cross-sectional area per unit time and goes to heating (cooling) the air. Usually expressed in watts per square meter.

**Seven-day, 10-year low flow** ( $7Q_{10}$ ) is the discharge below which the annual 7-day minimum flow falls in 1 year out of 10 on the long-term average. The recurrence interval of the  $7Q_{10}$  is 10 years; the chance that the annual 7-day minimum flow will be less than the  $7Q_{10}$  is 10 percent in any given year. (See also “Annual 7-day minimum” and “Recurrence interval”)

**Shelves**, as used in this report, are streambank features extending nearly horizontally from the flood plain to the lower limit of persistent woody vegetation.

**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. Sodium hazard in water is an index that can be used to evaluate the suitability of water for irrigating crops.

**Soil heat flux** (often used interchangeably with soil heat-flux density) is the amount of heat energy that moves by conduction across a specified cross-sectional area of soil per unit time and goes to heating (or cooling) the soil. Usually expressed in watts per square meter.

**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.

**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 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 water, to evaluate mixing of different water, 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.

**Substrate** is the physical surface upon which an organism lives.

**Substrate embeddedness class** is a visual estimate of riffle streambed substrate larger than gravel that is surrounded or covered by fine sediment (<2mm, sand or finer). Below are the class categories expressed as the percentage covered by fine sediment:

0	no gravel or larger substrate	3	26-50 percent
1	> 75 percent	4	5-25 percent
2	51-75 percent	5	< 5 percent

**Surface area of a lake** is that area (acres) encompassed by the boundary of the lake as shown on USGS topographic maps, or other available maps or photographs. Because surface area changes with lake stage, surface areas listed in this report represent those determined for the stage at the time the maps or photographs were obtained.

**Surficial bed material** is the upper surface (0.1 to 0.2 foot) of the bed material that is sampled using U.S. Series Bed-Material Samplers.

**Suspended** (as used in tables of chemical analyses) refers to the amount (concentration) of undissolved material in a water-sediment mixture. It is defined operationally as 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 water-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 directly analyzing the suspended material collected on the filter or, more commonly, by difference, on the basis of determinations of (1) dissolved and (2) total recoverable concentrations of the constituent. (See also “Suspended”)

**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<sup>3</sup>/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, 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”)

**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.

**Synoptic studies** are short-term investigations of specific water-quality conditions during selected seasonal or hydrologic periods to provide improved spatial resolution for critical water-quality conditions. For the period and conditions sampled, they assess the spatial distribution of selected water-quality conditions in relation to causative factors, such as land use and contaminant sources.

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

**Taxonomy** is the division of biology concerned with the classification and naming of organisms. The classification of organisms is based upon a hierarchical scheme beginning with Kingdom and ending with Species at the base. The higher the classification level, the fewer features the organisms have in common. For example, the taxonomy of a particular mayfly, *Hexagenia limbata*, is the following:

Kingdom:	Animal
Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Ephemeroptera
Family:	Ephemeridae
Genus:	<i>Hexagenia</i>
Species:	<i>Hexagenia limbata</i>

**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 resulting from the mixing of flow proportionally to the duration of the concentration.

**Tons per acre-foot** (T/acre-ft) is the dry mass (tons) of a constituent per unit volume (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 a common chemical or sediment discharge unit. It is the quantity of a substance in solution, in suspension, or as bedload that passes a stream section during a 24-hour period. It is equivalent to 2,000 pounds per day, or 0.9072 metric tons per day.

**Total** is the amount of a given constituent in a representative whole-water (unfiltered) 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 water-suspended sediment mixture and that the analytical method determined at least 95 percent of the constituent in the sample.)

**Total coliform bacteria** are a particular group of bacteria that are used as indicators of possible sewage pollution. This group includes coliforms that inhabit the intestine of warmblooded animals and those that inhabit soils. They are characterized as aerobic or facultative anaerobic, gram-negative, nonspore-forming, rod-shaped bacteria that ferment lactose with gas formation within 48 hours at 35 °C. In the laboratory, these bacteria are defined as all the organisms that produce colonies with a golden-green metallic sheen within 24 hours when incubated at 35 °C plus or minus 1.0 °C on M-Endo medium (nutrient medium for bacterial growth). Their concentrations are expressed as number of colonies per 100 milliliters of sample. (See also “Bacteria”)

**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 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 length** (fish) is the straight-line distance from the anterior point of a fish specimen’s snout, with the mouth closed, to the posterior end of the caudal (tail) fin, with the lobes of the caudal fin squeezed together.

**Total load** refers to all of a constituent in transport. When referring to sediment, it includes suspended load plus bed load.

**Total organism count** is the number of organisms collected and enumerated in any particular sample. (See also “Organism count/volume”)

**Total recoverable** is the amount of a given constituent in a whole-water sample after a 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 for whole-water samples, equivalent



digestion procedures are required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different digestion procedures may produce different analytical results.

**Total sediment discharge** is the mass of suspended-sediment plus bed-load transport, measured as dry weight, that passes a cross section in a given time. It is a rate and is reported as tons per day. (See also “Bedload,” “Bedload discharge,” “Sediment,” “Suspended sediment,” and “Suspended-sediment concentration”)

**Total sediment load** or **total load** is the sediment in transport as bedload and suspended-sediment load. The term may be qualified, such as “annual suspended-sediment load” or “sand-size suspended-sediment load,” and so on. It differs from total sediment discharge in that load refers to the material, whereas discharge refers to the quantity of material, expressed in units of mass per unit time. (See also “Sediment,” “Suspended-sediment load,” and “Total load”)

**Transect**, as used in this report, is a line across a stream perpendicular to the flow and along which measurements are taken, so that morphological and flow characteristics along the line are described from bank to bank. Unlike a cross section, no attempt is made to determine known elevation points along the line.

**Turbidity** is the reduction in the transparency of a solution due to 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 U.S. EPA 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 pathlength 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”)

**Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** are organic compounds that can be isolated from the water phase of a sample by purging the water sample with inert gas, such as helium, and subsequently analyzed by gas chromatography. Many VOCs are human-made chemicals that are used and produced in the manufacture of paints, adhesives, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, and refrigerants. They are often components of fuels, solvents, hydraulic fluids, paint thinners, and dry cleaning agents commonly used in urban settings. VOC contamination of drinking-water supplies is a human health concern because many are toxic and are known or suspected human carcinogens.

**Water table** is that surface in a ground-water body at which the water pressure is equal to the atmospheric pressure.

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

**Water year** in USGS 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, 2002, is called the “2002 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.

**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 acronym 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”)

## TECHNIQUES OF WATER-RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The USGS publishes a series of manuals titled the “Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations” that describe procedures for planning and conducting specialized work in water-resources investigations. The material in these manuals is grouped under major subject headings called books and is further divided into sections and chapters. For example, section A of book 3 (Applications of Hydraulics) pertains to surface water. Each chapter then is limited to a narrow field of the section subject matter. This publication format permits flexibility when revision or printing is required.

Manuals in the Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations series, which are listed below, are available online at <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/twri/>. Printed copies are available for sale from the USGS, Information Services, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225 (an authorized agent of the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office). Please telephone “1-888-ASK-USGS” for current prices, and refer to the title, book number, section number, chapter number, and mention the “U.S. Geological Survey Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations.” Other products can be viewed online at <http://www.usgs.gov/sales.html>, or ordered by telephone or by FAX to (303) 236-4693. Order forms for FAX requests are available online at <http://mac.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/forms/>. Prepayment by major credit card or by a check or money order payable to the “U.S. Geological Survey” is required.

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- 1-D2. *Guidelines for collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents*, by W.W. Wood: USGS–TWRI book 1, chap. D2. 1976. 24 p.

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- 2-D1. *Application of surface geophysics to ground-water investigations*, by A.A.R. Zohdy, G.P. Eaton, and D.R. Mabey: USGS–TWRI book 2, chap. D1. 1974. 116 p.
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#### Section E. Subsurface Geophysical Methods

- 2-E1. *Application of borehole geophysics to water-resources investigations*, by W.S. Keys and L.M. MacCary: USGS–TWRI book 2, chap. E1. 1971. 126 p.
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- 2-F1. *Application of drilling, coring, and sampling techniques to test holes and wells*, by Eugene Shuter and W.E. Teasdale: USGS–TWRI book 2, chap. F1. 1989. 97 p.

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- 3-A1. *General field and office procedures for indirect discharge measurements*, by M.A. Benson and Tate Dalrymple: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A1. 1967. 30 p.

- 3-A2. *Measurement of peak discharge by the slope-area method*, by Tate Dalrymple and M.A. Benson: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A2. 1967. 12 p.
- 3-A3. *Measurement of peak discharge at culverts by indirect methods*, by G.L. Bodhaine: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A3. 1968. 60 p.
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- 3-A11. *Measurement of discharge by the moving-boat method*, by G.F. Smoot and C.E. Novak: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A11. 1969. 22 p.
- 3-A12. *Fluorometric procedures for dye tracing*, Revised, by J.F. Wilson, Jr., E.D. Cobb, and F.A. Kilpatrick: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A12. 1986. 34 p.
- 3-A13. *Computation of continuous records of streamflow*, by E.J. Kennedy: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A13. 1983. 53 p.
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- 3-A20. *Simulation of soluble waste transport and buildup in surface waters using tracers*, by F.A. Kilpatrick: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A20. 1993. 38 p.
- 3-A21. *Stream-gaging cableways*, by C. Russell Wagner: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. A21. 1995. 56 p.
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- 3-B1. *Aquifer-test design, observation, and data analysis*, by R.W. Stallman: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. B1. 1971. 26 p.
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- 3-B4. *Regression modeling of ground-water flow*, by R.L. Cooley and R.L. Naff: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. B4. 1990. 232 p.
- 3-B4. *Supplement 1. Regression modeling of ground-water flow—Modifications to the computer code for nonlinear regression solution of steady-state ground-water flow problems*, by R.L. Cooley: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. B4. 1993. 8 p.
- 3-B5. *Definition of boundary and initial conditions in the analysis of saturated ground-water flow systems—An introduction*, by O.L. Franke, T.E. Reilly, and G.D. Bennett: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. B5. 1987. 15 p.
- 3-B6. *The principle of superposition and its application in ground-water hydraulics*, by T.E. Reilly, O.L. Franke, and G.D. Bennett: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. B6. 1987. 28 p.
- 3-B7. *Analytical solutions for one-, two-, and three-dimensional solute transport in ground-water systems with uniform flow*, by E.J. Wexler: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. B7. 1992. 190 p.
- 3-B8. *System and boundary conceptualization in ground-water flow simulation*, by T.E. Reilly: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. B8. 2001. 29 p.
- Section C. Sedimentation and Erosion Techniques*
- 3-C1. *Fluvial sediment concepts*, by H.P. Guy: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. C1. 1970. 55 p.
- 3-C2. *Field methods for measurement of fluvial sediment*, by T.K. Edwards and G.D. Glysson: USGS-TWRI book 3, chap. C2. 1999. 89 p.
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