

BACKWATER AT BRIDGES AND DENSELY WOODED FLOOD PLAINS, TENMILE CREEK NEAR ELIZABETH, LOUISIANA

By George J. Arcement, B. E. Colson, and C. O. Ming

Prepared in cooperation with the DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION and the LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT



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New techniques for predicting water-surface profiles, needed in the design of economical, structurally sound, and environmentally compatible stream crossings, are under investigation. The investigation has accelerated with the advent of digital computers capable of analyzing large quantities of data.

Since 1969 the U.S. Geological Survey has been collecting backwater data where wide, densely vegetated flood plains are crossed by highway embankments and single-opening bridges. This work was done in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration Department of Transportation, the Alabama State Highway Department, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, and the Mississippi State Highway Department.

INTRODUCTION

Backwater data were obtained at 22 sites for 35 floods; that is, 11 sites had 1 flood each; 9 sites, 2 floods each; and 2 sites, 3 floods each. Analysis of data (Schneider and others, 1976) showed that backwater discharge measurements computed by methods presently in use, would be inaccurate. The floodflow data are unique in the range and detail in which information was collected and provide a base for evaluating digital models relating to open-channel flow.

The data sites (fig. 1) are listed below. This atlas shows flood data obtained on Tenmile Creek near Elizabeth, Louisiana, one of the 22 sites.

Table listing hydrologic investigations at various sites in Alabama and Louisiana, including site names and identification numbers.

MISSISSIPPI Bogue Chitto near Johnson Station, HA-591; Bogue Chitto near Summit, 592; Coldwater River near Red Banks, 593*

DESCRIPTION OF DATA TYPE OF DATA Data collected at all study sites consist of (1) depths, velocities, and discharges measured through the bridge openings, and (2) peak water-surface elevations along the highway embankment and along cross sections.

BRIDGE GEOMETRY Detailed bridge geometry was obtained at each site. The bridge cross section was surveyed at the most contracted section. Piers, spur dikes, wingwalls, abutment slopes, and other pertinent geometry were measured.

MANNING'S ROUGHNESS COEFFICIENT Schneider and others (1976) used composite Manning's roughness coefficient values n where frequent changes in roughness occurred. In their study, composite values of n were verified by matching step backwater computations of the water surface with actual water-surface profiles for measured discharges.

PRESENTATION OF DATA The data are presented on topographic maps enlarged from standard 1:24,000 or 1:62,500 scale U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps which comply with National Map Accuracy Standards. Accuracy limitations of the base maps are retained in the enlargements. Although positions may be scaled closely on the enlargements, they are not defined with greater accuracy than positions on the base maps.

DATUM All elevations presented in this report are referred to National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD).

FLOOD-FREQUENCY RELATIONS

Flood-frequency relations are presented graphically. Techniques for deriving flood-frequency relations are those described by the U.S. Water Resources Council (1977), and by Neely (1976).

INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS (SI) The International System of Units (SI) is used throughout this report. All data were measured in the U.S. customary units and converted to SI units. Ground elevations which were originally determined to the nearest tenth of a foot are rounded to the nearest 0.01 meter.

DATA FOR TENMILE CREEK NEAR ELIZABETH, LOUISIANA

Data for Tenmile Creek near Elizabeth, La., obtained in a 4-kilometer reach crossed about midway by State Highway 112, are presented on three sheets (fig. 2). Sheet 1 contains bridge geometry and road embankments as shown on sheet 2 as they existed at the time of the flood. The cross section surveyed at the downstream side of the bridge is tabulated on sheet 1. The cross section shown for velocity distribution was obtained by sounding from the downstream side of the bridge during the discharge measurement.

For the flood of December 7, 1971, are presented. Nine valley cross sections were surveyed after this flood and additional ground elevations were surveyed in the vicinity of the bridge (sheet 2). Cross section 3 is located along an old railroad spurline.

MANNING'S ROUGHNESS COEFFICIENTS AND THE 1971 FLOOD BOUNDARIES are shown on sheets 2 and 3.

FLOOD OF DECEMBER 7, 1971 Peak water-surface elevations, measured cross section, and velocities for the flood of December 7, 1971, are shown on sheet 3. The flood crest at an elevation of 33.607 meters at the reference point located on the downstream quad near the middle of the downstream side of the bridge. The peak discharge was 181 cubic meters per second, from a stage-discharge relation developed for the site. Two discharge measurements were made during the flood. A discharge of 115 cubic meters per second was measured at an elevation of 33.232 meters at the reference point and a discharge of 146 cubic meters per second was measured at an elevation of 33.461 meters.

RECURRENT INTERVAL OF THE PEAK DISCHARGE is 4 years (Neely, 1976). See figure 4.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Other information pertaining to floods in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi may be obtained at the offices of the U.S. Geological Survey listed below:

U.S. Geological Survey Room 202, Oil and Gas Board Building (P. O. Box V) University, Alabama 35486

U.S. Geological Survey 6554 Florida Boulevard (P. O. Box 66492) Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896

U.S. Geological Survey 430 Bounds Street Jackson, Mississippi 39206

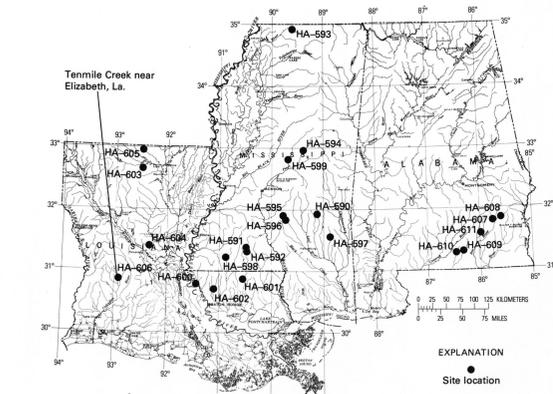


FIGURE 1.—INDEX MAP OF STUDY SITES IN THE BRIDGE BACKWATER INVESTIGATION PROJECT, ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, AND MISSISSIPPI.

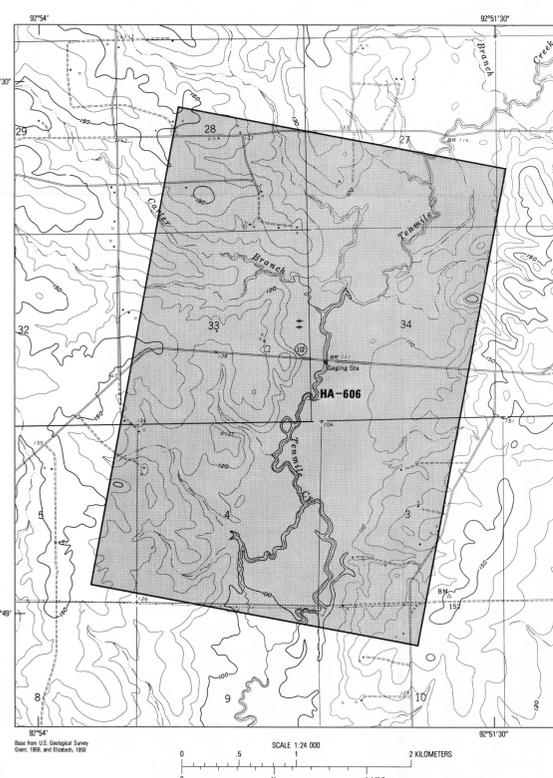


FIGURE 2.—INDEX MAP OF STUDY REACH, TENMILE CREEK NEAR ELIZABETH, LOUISIANA.



FIGURE 3.—AERIAL VIEW LOOKING UPSTREAM AT BRIDGE ON STATE HIGHWAY 112, TENMILE CREEK NEAR ELIZABETH, LOUISIANA.

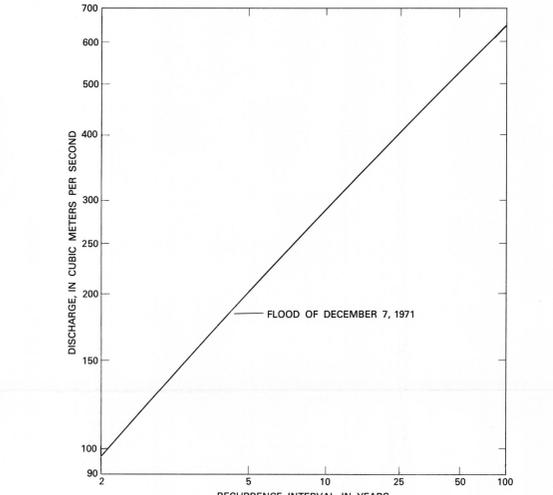


FIGURE 4.—FREQUENCY OF FLOODS, TENMILE CREEK NEAR ELIZABETH, LOUISIANA

TABLE 1.—VALLEY CROSS-SECTION DATA FOR TENMILE CREEK NEAR ELIZABETH, LOUISIANA. ZERO STATION IS AT THE LEFT EDGE OF THE VALLEY (FACING DOWNSTREAM)

Table 1: Valley cross-section data for Tenmile Creek near Elizabeth, Louisiana. It contains four columns of data for Cross Section 1, Cross Section 6, Cross Section 8, and Cross Section 9. Each column lists Station (Meters), Ground Surface Elevation (Meters), and Bridge Surface Elevation (Meters).

TABLE 2.—DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS DECEMBER 6 AND 7, 1971, TENMILE CREEK NEAR LOUISIANA. ZERO STATION IS AT THE EDGE OF THE LEFT ABUTMENT (FACING DOWNSTREAM)

Table 2: Discharge measurements for December 6 and 7, 1971. It contains two columns of data for Cross Section 3 and Cross Section 8. Each column lists Station (Meters), Depth (Meters), Angle (Degrees), Observation Depth (Meters), and Velocity (Meters per Second).

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENT OF DECEMBER 6, 1971. (WATER-SURFACE ELEVATION=33.461 METERS) TOTAL DISCHARGE=146 CUBIC METERS PER SECOND

Table 3: Discharge measurement of December 7, 1971. It contains two columns of data for Cross Section 4 and Cross Section 8. Each column lists Station (Meters), Depth (Meters), Angle (Degrees), Observation Depth (Meters), and Velocity (Meters per Second).

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENT OF DECEMBER 7, 1971. (WATER-SURFACE ELEVATION=33.232 METERS) TOTAL DISCHARGE=115 CUBIC METERS PER SECOND

For sale by Branch of Distribution, U.S. Geological Survey, 1225 South First Street, Arlington, VA 22202 and Branch of Distribution, U.S. Geological Survey, 1000 Federal Center, Denver, CO 80202