

Figure 1. Boundary of study area and location of Central Midwest regional aquifer system.

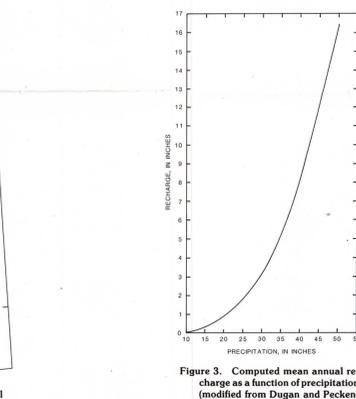
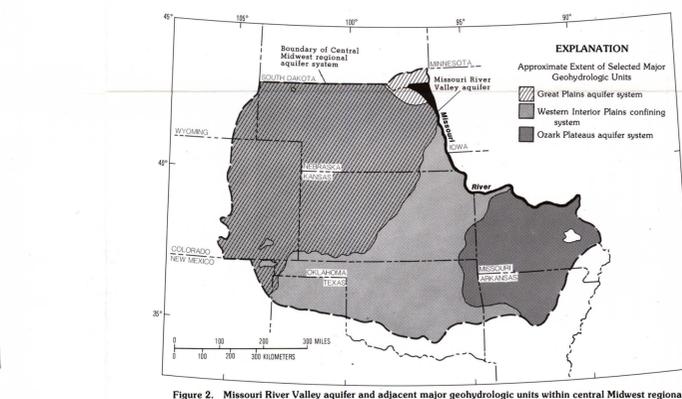
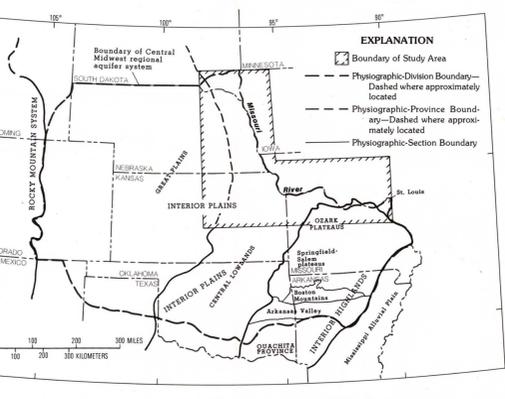


Figure 2. Missouri River Valley aquifer and adjacent major geologic units within central Midwest regional aquifer system study area.

SURFACE- AND GROUND-WATER INTERACTION AND HYDROLOGIC BUDGET OF THE MISSOURI RIVER VALLEY AQUIFER BETWEEN YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

By
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INTRODUCTION
The U.S. Geological Survey began a study of the Central Midwest regional aquifer system in October 1980 to: (1) describe the hydrologic system, (2) create a regional data base, (3) describe the hydrologic system, (4) evaluate aquifer-system response to future conditions. This report analyzes streamflow gains and losses of the Missouri River Valley aquifer between Yankton, South Dakota, and St. Louis, Missouri.
The study area is in the Interior Plains and Interior Highlands physiographic divisions (Fenneman, 1946) and includes parts of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota (fig. 1). Land-surface elevation ranges from about 400 feet above sea level in the southeast to about 1,100 feet above sea level in the northwest. Mean annual precipitation ranges from about 24 inches in the northwest near Yankton, South Dakota, to about 40 inches in the southeast near St. Louis, Missouri.
The Missouri River Valley aquifer occurs in the flood plain of the Missouri River. The aquifer consists of unconsolidated sand and gravel, silt, and clay, and is overlain by a thin layer of glacial till. The aquifer is in hydraulic connection with the Missouri River, which courses over the aquifer.
There are three regional geologic units in contact with the Missouri River Valley aquifer (fig. 2):
(1) The Great Plains aquifer system, formerly termed the "Dakota" aquifer in Cretaceous rocks;
(2) The Western Interior Plains confining system consisting mostly of shale and limestone of Permian and Pennsylvanian age;
(3) The Ozark Plateaus aquifer system consisting mostly of limestone and dolostone of Cambrian and Ordovician age.
The Missouri River Valley aquifer is in contact with the Great Plains aquifer system in the upstream reaches, the Western Interior Plains confining system in the middle reaches, and the Ozark Plateaus aquifer system in the downstream reaches (fig. 2). The Western Interior Plains confining system consists of layers of permeable material, such as limestone or sandstone that may be water-yielding, and layers of very small permeability, such as shale. However, collectively the layers confine or restrict to some degree the flow to and from the underlying Western Interior Plains aquifer system (Jorgensen and others, in press).

HYDROLOGIC BUDGET
The elements of the hydrologic budget for the Missouri River Valley aquifer include exchange of surface water and ground water, as well as recharge from precipitation, evaporation from open-water surfaces and wetlands, underflow from adjacent uplands, and consumptive use of municipal, domestic, and irrigation water. The interaction between the Missouri River Valley aquifer and the regional geologic units (Great Plains aquifer system, the Western Interior Plains confining system, and the Ozark Plateaus aquifer system) can not be directly measured because the interface across which flow occurs is in the subsurface. Thus, the interaction was evaluated indirectly through analysis of the hydrologic budget. Quantities for each element in the budget were measured or estimated; the interaction due to the regional aquifer system was unknown and was calculated as a residual term.
Although the primary objective of this analysis is to determine the exchange of water between the Missouri River Valley aquifer and the regional geologic units, this exchange had to be calculated by analyzing the water budget in reaches of the Missouri River.
Elements of gain to the Missouri River Valley aquifer except for gain or loss from regional geologic units were discriminated, and then these elements were evaluated by appropriate estimating techniques or by measurements. Thus, the gain or loss from the regional geologic units was the unknown variable in a steady-state analysis of the water budget equation for the Missouri River.
Analysis of streamflow gain and loss in this report generally followed established techniques in hydrology. The analysis involved defining streamflow gain and loss between 11 selected continuous-record stations on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. A 30-year period, the 1951-80 water years (October 1 to September 30), was used for the analysis because average annual precipitation data already were available (Hedman and others, 1987; Hedman and Engel, 1989); the relation used to estimate ground-water recharge to the water table was developed for this period (Dugan and Peckenpaugh, 1985), and the regulation of upstream reservoirs was relatively constant during most of the period.
The following procedure was used to evaluate gain and loss between 11 main-stem continuous-record gaging stations for the 30-year period:
(1) Determine the mean annual discharge at each main-stem Missouri and Mississippi River continuous-record gaging station in the study area.
(2) Determine the mean annual discharge at continuous-record gaging stations on nearby tributary streams.
(3) Estimate the mean annual discharge for the ungauged drainage areas adjacent to the Missouri River.
(4) Estimate the net mean annual recharge, which includes consideration of consumptive use and many other factors, that infiltrates to the water table of the Missouri River Valley aquifer.
(5) Estimate the mean annual recharge for the major cities on the Missouri River where the water is diverted upstream from the gaging station and discharged as sewage effluent downstream of the gage.
(6) Estimate the mean annual evaporation losses from open-water surfaces and wetlands.
(7) Estimate the mean annual consumptive use of the ground water from the Missouri River Valley aquifer used for irrigation.
(8) Estimate the mean annual underflow to and from the Missouri River Valley aquifer. Underflow to the Missouri River Valley aquifer from the regional geologic units and its tributaries, and to the Missouri River Valley aquifer through the valley walls.
As stated previously, in analyzing the hydrologic budget of the Missouri River, the unaccounted-for streamflow gain or loss from each reach between main-stem gaging stations (Q) are equivalent to the water from the interaction between the Missouri River Valley aquifer and the adjacent geologic units, such as the Great Plains aquifer system and the Ozark Plateaus aquifer system, and the Western Interior Plains confining system. Gain or loss (Q) was computed by subtracting from the discharge of the downstream main-stem gage (Q_d), the discharge of the upstream main-stem gage (Q_u), the discharge of the tributary gages (Q_t), the estimated discharge of the ungauged drainage area (Q_u), the estimated recharge (Q_r), the estimated discharge of any water that has bypassed an upstream Missouri River gage and is discharged downstream as sewage effluent (Q_{se}), and by adding the estimated discharge that is evaporated (Q_e) and the estimated discharge of consumptive use (Q_c). The resulting equation is:
$$Q = Q_d - Q_u - Q_t - Q_{u'} - Q_r - Q_{se} + Q_e + Q_c + Q_{c'}$$
 (1)
Streamflow-gaging station data used for the analysis are from files of the U.S. Geological Survey.

MEAN ANNUAL DISCHARGE
The 11 main-stem gaging stations used in the analysis had continuous-discharge records for the 30-year period, 1951-80. The mean annual discharge, in cubic feet per second, was computed for the 30-year period for each station and is shown in table 1.
Most of the gaging stations on the major tributary streams also had continuous-discharge records for the 30-year period (table 1). Some records less than 30 years were used because the mean annual discharge was generally small and was believed to be more accurate than discharge computed from the regression equation that is presented below. For these tributary stations the mean annual discharge was computed for either the 30-year period or for the available period of record as shown in table 1.
Regression analysis was used to develop an equation to compute mean annual discharge for the ungauged, upland drainage areas adjacent to the Missouri River. Data from the continuous-record gaging stations on nearby tributary streams (table 1) were used in the analysis. Only the downstream subareas were used for the large tributary streams that have two continuous-record gaging stations. The discharge and drainage areas for these subareas were computed by subtracting the comparable values for the upstream gages from the values for the downstream gage. The mean annual discharge values then were related to the drainage area or subarea and mean annual precipitation for each of the drainage areas or subareas with regression analysis.
The resulting equation has a standard error of estimate of 21 percent and is:
$$Q_u = 0.0165 A^{0.7} (P-20)^{1.2}$$
 (2)
where Q_u is mean annual discharge, in cubic feet per second; A is drainage area, in square miles; and P-20 is mean annual precipitation, in inches minus 20 inches. Subtracting 20 inches from all precipitation values improved the standard error of estimate by making the relation more linear. Precipitation values were greater than 20 inches in all subareas used in the analysis. This equation was used to compute the ungauged inflow shown in table 2.

MEAN ANNUAL RECHARGE
A relation between precipitation and recharge developed by Dugan and Peckenpaugh (1985) using a modified Jensen-Haise algorithm (Jensen and Haise, 1963) was used to estimate mean annual recharge to the water table (fig. 3). The recharge to water from precipitation that falls on the Missouri River valley and valleys downstream from gages on tributary streams and infiltrates to the water table after consumptive uses. The areas of the valleys, in square miles, were measured with a planimeter from U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangles (7.5-minute series) and did not include open-water surfaces and wetlands. Mean annual precipitation, in inches, was estimated from the lines of equal precipitation. Both the relation of Dugan and Peckenpaugh (1985) and the lines of equal precipitation were developed for the 30-year period. Mean annual recharge to the Missouri River Valley aquifer is shown in table 2.

MEAN ANNUAL UNDERFLOW
The Darcy equation was used to estimate the underflow along the main and tributary channels of the Missouri River and the underflow through the valley walls for each river reach. Because the gradients of the valleys are very small (1 ft/mi), the calculated underflow for the channels was also very small, generally less than 1 ft³ for each reach and considered insignificant for this study. Likewise, the hydraulic conductivity for the valley walls was small (estimated to be 1 x 10⁻⁴ ft/d), so the calculated valley-wall underflow to the Missouri River valley aquifer was considered insignificant for this study.

STREAMFLOW GAINS AND LOSSES
The streamflow gains (positive values) and losses (negative values) in Missouri River reaches are the discharge (Q) not accounted for by tributary inflow, recharge, domestic use, evaporation, and consumptive use as determined by equation 1. The analysis indicates which reaches gain or lose water. The location of the gaging and losing reaches is consistent with prediction of gains and losses from regional geologic studies of the regional aquifers of the Central Midwest area (D. C. Signor, U.S. Geological Survey, oral commun. 1987) and are generally consistent with regional water-level maps (Jorgensen and others, 1986).
The accuracy of the reach which will be discussed later, can not be fully evaluated. The gains and losses range from -908 to +1,219 ft³/s (see table 2). The values are approximately equivalent to but opposite in sign to the gains and losses to the Missouri River Valley aquifer from the adjacent regional geologic units. The Q value of +277 ft³/s for the Missouri River reach between Yankton, South Dakota, and Sioux City, Iowa, indicates that water is recharged to the Missouri River Valley aquifer from the Great Plains aquifer (fig. 2), which is consistent with measured hydraulic head relations in the aquifer system (Jorgensen and others, 1986).
The loss of 908 ft³/s in the reach between Waverly and Hermann, Missouri, indicates significant flow into the Missouri River Valley aquifer from the underlying Ozark Plateaus aquifer system and is consistent with measured hydraulic-head relations in the aquifer system (Jorgensen and others, 1986). The loss of water in the reach between Hermann and St. Louis, Missouri, indicates a loss from the Missouri River Valley aquifer. Here it is likely that water from the Missouri River Valley aquifer flows southward to the Mississippi River Valley aquifer, which has a significantly lower water level.

ACCURACY OF STUDY RESULTS
In assessing the accuracy of the study results, accuracy of the individual items needed for the hydrologic budget must be addressed. For example, the accuracy of the streamflow-gaging station data is assumed to be accurate. The loss of water in the reach between Hermann and St. Louis, Missouri, indicates a loss from the Missouri River Valley aquifer. Here it is likely that water from the Missouri River Valley aquifer flows southward to the Mississippi River Valley aquifer, which has a significantly lower water level.

MEAN ANNUAL WATER SURFACE EVAPORATION
Annual evaporation losses from open-water surfaces and wetlands for the 30-year period were computed by subtracting the mean annual precipitation from the potential evaporation. Potential evaporation and precipitation were estimated from the lines of equal evaporation (Farnsworth and others, 1982) and the lines of equal precipitation (Hedman and others, 1987; Hedman and Engel, 1989). The areas of the open-water surfaces and wetlands of the Missouri River Valley and valleys downstream from the gages on the tributaries were planimetered from U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangles (7.5-minute series). The mean annual water-surface evaporation for each of the 10 reaches is shown in table 2.

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Table 1. Discharge and basin characteristics of selected streams

Station number	Station name	River miles	Period record (water years)	Mean annual discharge (cubic feet per second)	Drainage area (square miles)
0646750	Missouri River at Yankton, South Dakota	805.8	1951-80	21,140	278,500
0647800	James River near Scottsbluff, South Dakota	1951-80	419	21,850	1,160
0647850	James River near Scottsbluff, South Dakota	1951-80	1,162	1,680	1,680
0648500	Big Sioux River at Alton, Iowa	1951-80	917	9,030	1,680
0649000	Missouri River at Sioux Falls, Iowa	723.3	1951-80	29,110	214,600
0660000	Perry Creek at Sioux City, Iowa	1951-69	14	65	65
0660500	Floyd River at James, Iowa	1956-80	194	889	889
0660700	Grain Creek at Homer, Nebraska	1951-80	23	68	68
0662400	Monona-Harrison Ditch near Turin, Iowa	1951-80	465	900	900
0662700	Little Sioux River near Turin, Iowa	1951-80	859	3,626	3,626
0663800	Teaham Creek at Teaham, Nebraska	1951-80	6	23	23
0663900	Soldier River at Poplar, Iowa	1951-80	123	407	407
0663900	New York Creek at Hermann, Nebraska	1951-68	7	25	25
0663900	Nevers River at Logan, Iowa	1951-80	306	871	871
0661000	Missouri River at Omaha, Nebraska	615.9	1951-80	31,090	322,800
0669500	Platte River at Loupville, Nebraska	1954-80	1,070	85,800	85,800
0669500	Weeping Water Creek at Union, Nebraska	1951-80	584	641	641
0687000	Missouri River at Nebraska City, Nebraska	562.6	1951-80	37,300	410,000
0681000	Nashimotoa River at Hamburg, Iowa	1951-80	1,140	2,680	2,680
0681000	Little Nemaha River at Auburn, Nebraska	1951-80	227	293	293
0681300	Tarkio River at Tarkio, Missouri	1951-80	224	508	508
0681300	Missouri River at Rio, Nebraska	498.0	1951-80	30,400	414,000
0681500	Big Nemaha River at Falls City, Nebraska	1951-80	581	1,340	1,340
0681700	Nevers River near Burlington Junction, Missouri	1951-80	540	1,240	1,240
0681800	Missouri River at St. Joseph, Missouri	448.2	1951-80	41,750	420,300
0681900	Piute River near Agency, Missouri	1956-80	978	1,260	1,260
0682110	Little Platte River at Smithville, Missouri	1956-80	152	234	234
0682110	Missouri River at Dalton, Kansas	1951-80	7,720	59,750	59,750
0683000	Missouri River at Kansas City, Missouri	366.1	1951-80	50,810	485,200
0683500	Blue River near Kansas City, Missouri	1951-80	141	188	188
0683500	Little Blue River near Kansas City, Missouri	1951-80	135	184	184
0683400	Little Blue River near Lake City, Missouri	1951-80	135	184	184
0683400	East Fork River near Excelsior Springs, Missouri	1952-72	12	20	20
0683500	Missouri River near Richmond, Missouri	1951-70	100	159	159
0689500	Missouri River at Waverly, Missouri	293.4	1951-80	51,480	487,200
0689200	Wakarusa Creek at Carrollton, Missouri	1951-70	138	248	248
0689200	Clinton River near Prairie Hill, Missouri	1950-80	1,130	6,890	6,890
0692200	West Yellow Creek near Brookfield, Missouri	1960-77	101	135	135
0692500	Clinton River near Prairie Hill, Missouri	1950-80	1,130	1,870	1,870
0692600	Muscatine River near Muscatine, Missouri	1963-80	209	287	287
0693600	East Fork, Lower Chariton River near Turkeville, Missouri	1963-80	167	220	220
0697000	Lanora River at Clinton, Missouri	1951-71	384	598	598
0698000	Blackwater River at Blue Lick, Missouri	1951-80	668	1,120	1,120
0699000	Missouri River at Booneville, Missouri	1966-80	60,030	501,700	501,700
0699000	Montauk River near Fayette, Missouri	1951-69	36	81	81
0691000	Prairie Saline Creek near Booneville, Missouri	1951-67	87	182	182
0691000	Nebraska River at Columbia, Missouri	1957-80	51	70	70
06910410	Cedar Creek near Columbia, Missouri	1956-75	41	45	45
06910500	Kansas River near Jefferson City, Missouri	1951-70	361	531	531
06928500	Osage River near St. Thomas, Missouri	1951-80	9,210	145,500	145,500
06927000	Marion River at Westphalia, Missouri	1951-70	197	197	197
06934000	Gasconade River near Rich Mountain, Missouri	1951-59	2,480	3,180	3,180
06934500	Missouri River at Hermann, Missouri	87.5	1951-80	75,880	52,420
06937500	Mississippi River at Alton, Illinois	**202	1951-80	102,100	171,500
**0710000	Mississippi River at St. Louis, Missouri	**180	1951-80	177,800	697,000

Table 2. Streamflow gains and losses for Missouri River
(Values are in cubic feet per second)

Missouri River reaches	Mean annual discharge (cubic feet per second) (main stem)	Mean annual discharge (cubic feet per second) (tributary)	Mean annual recharge (cubic feet per second) (main stem)	Mean annual evaporation (cubic feet per second)	Mean annual consumptive use (cubic feet per second)	Mean annual underflow (cubic feet per second)	Mean annual gain or loss (cubic feet per second)
064675 Yankton, South Dakota to 064882 Sioux City, Iowa	29,110	-27,140	-1,448	-310	-64	+17	+45
064780 Omaha, Nebraska to 066100 Perry Creek at Sioux City, Iowa	31,090	-29,110	-2,012	-210	-166	+13	+58
066240 Monona-Harrison Ditch near Turin, Iowa to 066270 Little Sioux River near Turin, Iowa	37,300	-31,090	-7,874	-352	-258	-39	+4
066380 Teaham Creek at Teaham, Nebraska to 066390 Soldier River at Poplar, Iowa	38,450	-37,300	-1,641	-265	-196	-	+6
066390 Nevers River at Logan, Iowa to 066100 Perry Creek at Sioux City, Iowa	41,750	-39,450	-1,121	-960	-69	+25	+12
066100 Perry Creek at Sioux City, Iowa to 066100 Perry Creek at Sioux City, Iowa	50,810	-41,750	-8,850	-861	-78	-20	+150
066100 Perry Creek at Sioux City, Iowa to 066100 Perry Creek at Sioux City, Iowa	50,810	-50,810	-398	-756	-89	-128	+6
066100 Perry Creek at Sioux City, Iowa to 066100 Perry Creek at Sioux City, Iowa	60,030	-51,480	-6,377	-1,212	-167	-	+5
066100 Perry Creek at Sioux City, Iowa to 066100 Perry Creek at Sioux City, Iowa	75,880	-60,030	-12,463	-1,812	-56	-	+1,219
068345 Hermann to 070100 St. Louis, Missouri	177,800	-75,880	-102,100	-1,143	-120	-	+235

Figure 3. Computed mean annual recharge as a function of precipitation (modified from Dugan and Peckenpaugh, 1985).