In June 1972, tropical storm Agnes caused severe flooding in Pennsylvania and southern New York. The floods on many major streams were the highest since the river levels were set. Maximum discharges were as much as twice the discharge of the 1972 flood. In southern New York, large areas in Cattaraugus, Erie, Wyoming, Tioga, and in two smaller communities were flooded to depths of several feet; losses of all of the crops were complete. One result of the extensive flooding of valuable properties resulted.

The extent of flooding shown on the map was delineated by the U.S. Geological Survey from field surveys made immediately after the floods.

The investigation was conducted in cooperation with the State of New York and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.