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# Activities of the Water Resources Division

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PREPARED FOR COOPERATING AGENCIES



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Geological Survey  
Open-File Report 85—570  
September 1985 Volume 1, Number 2



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# Activities of the Water Resources Division

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Compiled by C. William Cardin and John E. Moore



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Geological Survey  
Open-File Report 85—570  
September 1985 Volume 1, Number 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DONALD PAUL HODEL, Secretary

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Dallas L. Peck, Director

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## FOREWORD

This is the second report on activities of the Water Resources Division (WRD). It covers April–July, 1985.

The high point was publication of National Water Summary 1984, featuring State-by-State descriptions of ground-water conditions. Secretary of Interior Hodel announced the publication at a news conference on May 18, 1985.

WRD personnel testified before Congressional Committees or briefed Committee Staff more than a dozen times, to provide scientific information on water resources. We made four presentations just on the selenium situation at Kesterson Wildlife Refuge in the western San Joaquin Valley of California. Contamination of ground water is a matter of great concern to Congress, and we provided lengthy ground-water briefings to Congressional Committees.

Other subjects of concern in the April–July period were acid precipitation, national water-quality assessment (more on that in the first article), and water shortages in the Mid-Atlantic States. New York City was under drought emergency regulations that began in January. The contents of the City's three water-supply reservoirs in the Delaware River basin were at about half of capacity, while average for that time of year is close to 80 percent.

Descriptions of a number of recent publications also are included in this report. These have been grouped into three broad categories—the Federal Program, the Federal-State Cooperative Program, and the program of assistance to other Federal agencies.

Activities of the Water Resources Division is a publication for members of the Association of American State Geologists and other U.S. Geological Survey cooperators. The first issue (April 1985) was limited to information about WRD's Federal Program. This issue treats a wider variety of subjects. Your comments and thoughts on how to make the report more useful will be appreciated, and may be sent to the Chief Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey, 409 National Center, Reston, VA 22092.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip A. Allen".

Chief Hydrologist



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## **CURRENT ISSUES**

### **National Water-Quality Assessment**

The House Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 1986 contains \$5 million for the Survey to start a National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQAP).

Potential funding for the NAWQAP grew out of a USGS hearing last March before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. More than 2 hours of discussion took place between the Chairman and the Chief Hydrologist on the status of the Nation's water quality. As part of that exchange, the Survey was asked to provide a letter outlining a program which would give definitive information on status and trends of water quality. In response the Survey outlined a plan developed during the past year that would lead to a thorough evaluation of water quality, and a continuing assessment of conditions and trends.

Following is a summary of the NAWQAP proposal provided to the House Interior Appropriations subcommittee.

The U.S. Geological Survey has been engaged for the past year in an effort to design a scientifically sound approach to a thorough evaluation of the quality of the Nation's water. The proposed program is an effort to provide the information required for understanding and keeping track of the Nation's water quality. Without the understanding that such a program would provide, remedial or protective measures adopted in response to perceived water-quality problems are likely to be excessively costly, ineffective, or unnecessary. Presently, the USGS is involved in a wide range of activities related to water quality. Data collection and analysis, interpretive investigations, and basic research, provide a substantial framework upon which to build a sharply focused "National Water-Quality Assessment," which would provide much of the information needed to evaluate the quality of the Nation's water. Such information is needed by both the public and private sectors to effectively and efficiently develop and manage the Nation's water resources.

The concept of a thorough national assessment of water quality poses numerous significant questions. Some of these arise simply from the vast extent of the Nation's stream and aquifer

systems, and the consequent magnitude of the data-acquisition task. Others arise from the present lack of data on many critical contaminants, and the difficulty and expense of analyzing for those contaminants. Still others arise from our limited understanding of the processes controlling the fate and distribution of contaminants in natural waters.

Through USGS efforts over the past year an approach has been developed which would lead to sound conclusions about the Nation's water quality in a few years and at a reasonable cost. The approach developed addresses three major components of the hydrologic cycle: surface water, ground water, and precipitation. In terms of surface water, the approach will focus on approximately 90 study units, chosen so as to account in aggregate for more than 80 percent of the surface-water withdrawals in the Nation, although incorporating only about 40 percent of the Nation's land area. The investigations in these study units will be conducted in a continuing 9-year cycle. Each unit will be studied intensively for 3 years and then data will be collected at a much lower level of intensity for 6 years; the cycle will then be repeated, beginning with another 3-year period of intensive study. The schedule of investigations will be rotational, so that only one-third of the study units will be under intensive investigation at any one time, and the nationwide effort will remain at a uniform level. Within a given study unit, the 3-year periods of intensive study will utilize both fixed station data collection and synoptic measurement, and will involve extensive scientific analysis and interpretation. The initial intensive phase in each study unit will lead to a characterization of the present state of surface-water contamination; subsequent intensive studies will focus on the changes that are occurring with time, and on the processes responsible for those changes. During the 6-year intervals between periods of intensive study, data collection will be maintained in each unit at the level required to track significant changes with time.

For ground-water quality, the proposed approach involves the adaptation of iterative search techniques to the location of contaminated ground water. Such techniques have been used successfully in mineral exploration and elsewhere. The iterative search procedure will seek to subdivide the ground-water regime into zones characterized by: (a) known presence of extensive contamination or a high probability of extensive contamination ("probably contaminated" zones); (b) a lower probability of extensive contamination but a high vulnerability to contamination ("vulnerable" zones); or (c) a low probability of extensive contamination and a low vulnerability to contamination. Several types of information will be integrated in applying the iterative search techniques: data on land use, particularly as related to potential sources of contamination; information on the geohydrologic characteristics of subsurface materials,

particularly those characteristics which determine vulnerability to contamination; actual data on ground-water quality in the files of public or private groups; and the data collected during the search procedure itself. The collection of new data as well as the assembly of some of the preliminary information will be carried out according to iterative procedures, in which the activities in each stage are guided by information assembled in previous stages. As the iterative search progresses, a program of intensive hydrologic investigations will be initiated in individual zones which have been classified either as "probably contaminated" or "vulnerable."

The third major hydrologic component, precipitation, is presently addressed through the interagency National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program. Under the USGS's proposed approach, this effort would be augmented to include increased data collection for metals and organics in precipitation; and it would be complemented by a program of interpretive studies addressing the effects of acid precipitation in various geohydrologic settings.

An extensive research effort would be required in support of any national water-quality assessment program; this research would address the geochemical factors controlling the movement and fate of contaminants, and would seek to develop improved sampling strategies and analytical techniques. Any attempt at a national water-quality assessment program would also require extensive laboratory support, well beyond the capacity of the present USGS Central Laboratory System. A National Water Quality Assessment Program of the type envisioned would require close consultation and coordination with numerous local, State, and other Federal agencies. The USGS is convinced that a national water-quality assessment is needed and that it can mount and lead such an effort.

## **Priority Issues for the Federal-State Cooperative Program**

The key issues for the Federal-State Cooperative Program in the coming fiscal year have been defined into two groups. Group I includes four issues that are of major national concern and should be considered of highest priority in developing the Fiscal Year 1986 Cooperative Program. The issues in Group I are: Ground-Water Contamination, Stream Quality, Water Supply and Demand, and Hydrologic Hazards. Group II includes three issues that are considered to have high priority for new work, but the importance of these issues may differ from Region to Region. The issues in Group II are: Hydrologic Effects of Fossil Fuel and Mineral Extraction; Wetlands, Lakes, Estuaries; and Acid Rain.

### **Group I**

Ground-Water Contamination.--Studies are needed of the movement and behavior of contaminants, including toxic wastes, in the ground-water system. There is a particular need for investigations of the impacts of waste disposal, for studies of contamination by nonpoint sources such as urban runoff and agricultural practices, and for evaluation of salt-water encroachment induced by pumping. Studies should address flow dynamics, solute transport processes, chemical and biological processes, and the evaluation of baseline water quality against which to compare future changes. Emphasis should be placed on studies which advance knowledge on controlling processes such as solute transport, organic biodegradation, and contaminant movement between ground- and surface-water environments. Expanded participation in these activities in the Federal-State Cooperative Program will make the Division's skills and knowledge available to our cooperators as a means of aiding in local ground-water protection strategies.

Stream Quality.--There is an increasing need for appraisals of the water quality of stream systems, particularly with respect to the occurrence and movement of toxic substances, and the impact of contamination on stream ecology. To better understand the movement and concentration changes of undesirable materials, investigations need to emphasize assessments of stream quality, including sediment chemistry, as related to land use, stream biota, ground-water contribution, and overland runoff. Particular emphasis should be placed on process-related studies.

This topic includes expanding the data base on chemical properties and on the processes governing erosion, sediment transport and deposition; measuring the impacts of land-use changes, including urban development; studying the effects on land and water resources of suspended and deposited sediments; and understanding the transport of toxic substances and other constituents sorbed or attached to sediment.

Water Supply and Demand.--Increasing diversion, withdrawal, and use of water, stress both the quantity and quality of existing supplies, thus raising costs of both delivery and treatment, and

presenting ever more difficult problems of allocation and quality management. Information defining present water use is required to quantify stresses both spatially and temporally. Flow system simulation is essential to anticipate stress response, especially for stream-aquifer systems. Topics for study should include streamflow response to drought conditions, and system response both to projected uses and supply-augmentation schemes. The foundation for understanding problems of supply and demand is a well designed and carefully evaluated data-collection and analysis program.

Hydrologic Hazards.--Annual economic losses from floods, mudflows, debris flows, sedimentation, and other hydrologic hazards continue to amount to billions of dollars. These hazards are related not only to meteorological conditions but to such phenomena as landslides, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. Studies are needed to define the magnitude and probability of occurrence of hazardous hydrologic events and to better understand the processes by which they occur. Hazard studies in urban environments and flood-risk analyses associated with hydrologic-structure design should be included in this category.

## Group II

Hydrologic Effects of Fossil Fuel and Mineral Extraction.--The extractive industries, whether oil and gas producing and processing, solid-fuel mining and processing (such as coal and oil shale), or metallic and nonmetallic mining, are pervasive in their influence on hydrologic systems. Impacts may relate to a wide spectrum of hydrologic phenomena, including interaction of subsurface fluids with contrasting chemical and physical characteristics, large-scale aquifer dewatering to permit mining, disruption of surface drainage, and disturbance of geochemical equilibria. Studies of such problems need to be pursued using high technology interpretive methods. They are important because of insidious and long-lasting effects of mineral, solid-fuel, and fluid hydrocarbon extraction, and the large areas affected. Investigations should include studies of the hydrologic effects of land reclamation, mining, and waste disposal.

Wetlands, Lakes, Estuaries.--Because of their importance to fish and wildlife resources, wetlands, lakes, and estuaries deserve special attention. These areas are especially sensitive to man's encroachment. Studies should address the availability, movement, and quality of water, emphasizing physical, chemical, and biological processes. Studies should include the interaction between surface-water bodies and aquifers, as well as the design of improved networks for baseline data collection.

Acid Rain -- Interpretive studies of the effects of precipitation chemistry on water quality and the interaction of acid rain with biological systems should receive priority attention in terranes that have limited ability to buffer ground and surface waters, and in urban settings that produce large loads of atmospheric pollutants.

## **NEW WRD INVESTIGATIONS (APRIL-JULY 1985)**

**Evaluation of Controlled Release of Water from Spirit Lake, Washington.**--The eruption of Mount St. Helens caused a massive blockage of Spirit Lake. The possibility of a sudden catastrophic breaching of the blockage has been a cause for alarm. The sudden release of lake water would sharply increase both the discharge of South Fork Coldwater Creek and the erosive capacity of the stream. The latter would increase sediment loads which could have drastic effects on downstream developments. The Corps of Engineers recently constructed a tunnel through the volcanic-ash blockage which will be used to control releases of lake water and thereby control the lake level. This will reduce the possibility of a catastrophic breaching of the blockage. The USGS will study the effects of the release of water from Spirit Lake by making a detailed sediment analysis of the erosion in South Fork Coldwater Creek. This will include testing existing and proposed models of sediment transport, assessing impact of release on the long-term stability of the lake blockage, and documenting rates and types of sediment entrainment and selective transport and sorting of materials that accompany the predicted erosion.

**Detection of Trends in the Abundance and Composition of Biological Components of San Francisco Bay, California.**--At the request of the Water Resources Control Board in California, the USGS has started a long-term data collection and analysis program to detect and characterize trends in the abundance and composition of key biological components including plankton, benthic fauna, and macroalgae. Ongoing monitoring of selected chemical and physical properties will support the biological work.

**Assessment of Potential Landfill Sites in Southern San Diego County, California.**--In cooperation with San Diego County, the USGS has begun a 2-year program to develop procedures for the selection and evaluation of potential landfill sites in the southeastern part of the county. The first phase of the study is designed to identify 12 potential sites, two of which the county will select for final consideration. The second phase of the study will consist of detailed surface geophysics surveys, well drilling and testing, water sampling, and chemical analyses to define the volume, structure, lithology, and hydraulic characteristics at the two selected sites.

**Ground-Water Quality in Hawaii.**--The USGS and the Hawaii Department of Health signed a new cooperative agreement to study organic constituents of ground water in Hawaii. This will be a statewide reconnaissance of ground water in order to assess the degree of organic contamination of the resource. Six drinking-water wells on Oahu were recently shut down as a result of high concentrations of organic compounds that are associated with pesticides. The study will help to delineate sources of contamination and to identify appropriate remedial measures.

**Hydrogeology and Geochemistry of the Roubidoux Aquifer in the Vicinity of the Picher Mining Field, Northeastern Oklahoma.**--Most of the water supply for extreme northeastern Oklahoma comes from the Roubidoux aquifer and associated formations of the Cambrian and Ordovician ages. At the request of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the USGS has started an investigation to determine the geologic, hydraulic, and chemical characteristics of the aquifer and of the overlying formations that separate it from abandoned mines of the Picher Field. Contaminated water could be migrating from the mines to the Roubidoux via abandoned water wells. A multi-agency effort to locate and plug all such wells began in late 1984. In this investigation, data from a variety of logs will be used to help determine rates of leakage between the Roubidoux and overlying formations. Analyses for isotopes of carbon, hydrogen, and sulfur will provide useful information on chemical reactions occurring in the Roubidoux aquifer and on the age of its water. This should aid in determining what the effects of migration of mine water might be.

**Geohydrology in Vicinity of New Jersey Fusion Test Reactor.**--The USGS entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy to assess the potential consequences of an instantaneous release of 45,000 gallons of reactive water on the surrounding ground-water system in the vicinity of their fusion test reactor in New Jersey. The reactor is located in a highly complex geohydrologic setting in which little is known about the water-bearing properties of the underlying geologic materials or about the nature of geohydrologic boundaries (lateral or vertical) in the area. The objectives of the study are to define the aquifer characteristics of the site, and the hydraulic boundaries of the overburden and bedrock; to develop predictive ground-water flow and transport models; and to design and establish a ground-water monitoring program.

**USGS and Army Materials Command Sign Agreement for Survey Assistance at Hazardous Waste Sites.**--The USGS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Army Materials Command (AMC) which outlines the nature of the work which the Survey may be requested to undertake at hazardous waste sites on AMC property. The MOU supports activities required by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). When requested, the Survey will conduct hydrogeologic investigations at designated AMC installations, normally beginning with a presurvey to determine the nature, concentration, extent, direction, and rates of movement of contaminant plumes. The USGS may also assist by reviewing reports prepared by commercial contractors, commenting on emergency response actions, or providing an expert witness in litigation or administrative proceedings.

**Water Availability for Irrigating Indian Lands in North Dakota.--** The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs has requested the USGS to evaluate the hydrology of the Warwick aquifer in North Dakota. A plan has been developed to use the Warwick aquifer to irrigate land on the Fort Totten Indian Reservation. However, it is not known if the aquifer can sustain the required withdrawals. The study will involve the use of existing data, supplemented by data from several wells to be installed, to determine relations between surface-water features and the aquifer. The combined information will be used to develop a simple ground-water flow model to evaluate irrigation potential.

**Aquifer Evaluation Near Jackson, Mississippi.--**At the request of the Mississippi Bureau of Land and Water Resources, the USGS has begun a study to develop an understanding of the Cockfield and Sparta aquifers near Jackson, Mississippi. Significant cones of depression have developed in the potentiometric surfaces of the aquifer as a result of long-term concentrated pumping. Consequently, the State is concerned about the ability of the ground-water system to sustain current water yields. As part of the study, the Survey will use extensive field data to construct a three-dimensional digital model of the flow system that can be used by the State to test alternative management strategies and determine where and how much ground water can be withdrawn.

**Hydrology of Possible Coal-Leasing Area in Colorado.--**The Survey and the Bureau of Land Management agreed to a study of the hydrology of the Hart Syncline Area, Northwest Colorado. The area is being evaluated for potential coal leasing. The need for a hydrologic analysis is to facilitate the decisionmaking process which includes whether or not to lease, type of mining to permit, and the degree of control for handling waste discharge and overburden material. The hydrologic analysis will include description of the existing ground- and surface-water systems in terms of water availability, flow characteristics, and quality.

## REPRESENTATIVE WRD REPORTS PUBLISHED APRIL-JULY 1985

### Federal Program

**National Water Summary 1984--Hydrologic Events, Selected Water-Quality Trends, and Ground-Water Resources** is the second in the USGS series of major annual reports on the condition of United States water resources. The assessment includes a State-by-State summary of the distribution, availability, and use of the ground water found in more than 350 aquifers and aquifer systems--the most comprehensive State-by-State ground-water information yet assembled. The 467-page summary also highlights trends of selected water-quality constituents in the Nation's major rivers and major hydrologic events of 1984.  
Water Supply Paper 2275.

**Selected Papers in the Hydrologic Sciences** is a new journal-type publication that provides timely results of hydrologic studies derived from the Federal Research and the Federal-State Cooperative programs of the Geological Survey. Also included will be results of some studies done on behalf of other Federal agencies. The second volume, just released, contains nine topical papers that address an array of topics, including model simulation of ground- and surface-water systems, hydrogeochemistry, biochemistry of aquatic environments, and selected physical and chemical techniques on hydrologic studies. The release is designed to meet a widespread public and professional interest in the hydrologic sciences.  
Water Supply Paper 2270.

**Effects of Artificial Recharge on the Ogallala Aquifer, Texas** describes four recharge tests that involved injecting water from playa lakes through wells into the Ogallala Formation. Artificial recharge is a means of extending the "life" of the Ogallala which is essential to the agricultural economy of the Southern High Plains of Texas. The technique is used extensively to place surface water into ground-water storage, where it is not subject to evaporation, and where contamination from surface sources is less likely. Where geologic conditions are not suitable for recharge from spreading basins, recharge by injection of water through wells has been used. The four recharge tests had varying degrees of success, primarily as a result of differences in aquifer lithology, the concentration of suspended solids in recharge water, and the injection technique.  
Water Supply Paper 2251.

**The Hydrogeologic Framework of the Southeastern Coastal Plain Aquifer System of the United States** describes the hydrogeology of the water-bearing system that is the principal source of water for parts of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and North and South Carolina. It describes the configuration and overall character of the sand and clay bodies which form regionally extensive aquifers and confining beds within the Southeastern United States Coastal Plain. The report is a product of the Geological Survey's Regional Aquifer-Systems Analysis Program that involves a series of investigations to present a systematic, unified, regional overview and assessment of the hydrogeologic and geochemical conditions of unique, multi-state aquifer systems. A major objective of the program is to examine the pattern of ground-water flow within regional aquifers and to develop mathematical models of the systems.  
Water Resources Investigation 84-4243.

**Data on the Distribution and Abundance of Submersed Aquatic Vegetation in the Potomac River and Transition Zone of the Potomac Estuary, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, 1983 and 1984** concentrates on the tidal Potomac River but extends the survey into the transition zone and part of the estuary. A 1978-1981 survey showed that the tidal river was nearly devoid of submersed aquatic plants, and that the greatest abundance and diversity was found in the transition zone of the estuary. In 1983, several species of submersed aquatic plants returned to the tidal river, giving scientists reason to believe that environmental conditions and water quality have improved.  
Water Supply Paper 2234-A.

**Controls on Phosphorus Mobility in the Potomac River near the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant** summarizes the results of part of the river-quality assessment program for the Potomac River. The Blue Plains wastewater treatment plant is the largest source of phosphorus in the Potomac River basin. The transport of phosphorus near the treatment plant was found to be affected by the circulation regime, by inorganic adsorption reactions with sediments, and by metabolic uptake and release by phytoplankton. Analyses of bottom sediments indicate that about 13 percent of the phosphorus discharged between September 1977 and August 1980 has been retained in the embayment on the eastern side of the river. Measurements of the linear decay constant for the removal of dissolved phosphorus from the water column reveal a diurnal cycle corresponding to the metabolic utilization of phosphorus by phytoplankton.  
Water Supply Paper 2231.

**Design of the National Trends Network for Monitoring the Chemistry of Atmospheric Precipitation** describes the development of the National Trends Network for monitoring the chemistry of atmospheric precipitation. The network, which will ultimately consist of 151 sites, will monitor precipitation at sites representing broad regional characteristics for a minimum of 10 years. The basic elements of the design are: assurance that all areas of the country are represented in the network on the basis of regional ecological properties (96 sites); placement of additional sites east of the Rocky Mountains to better define high deposition gradients; placement of sites to assure that potentially sensitive regions are represented (15 sites); and placement of sites to allow for other considerations, such as urban effects (5 sites), in comparison with Canada (3 sites), and apparent disparities in regional coverage (5 sites). The U.S. Geological Survey is lead agency of the Deposition Monitoring Task Group of the Interagency Task Force on Acid Precipitation. Circular 964.

**Freshwater Heads and Ground-Water Temperatures in Aquifers of the Northern Great Plains in Parts of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming** uses water-level measurements and ground-water temperatures to map the heads and temperature variations in the several aquifers in the Northern Great Plains. Water temperatures, in formations that range in depth from land surface to as much as 15,000 ft, are estimated to range from about 7 degrees to about 174 degrees C based on an assumed gradient of 1 degree C per 90 feet of depth. Temperature variations are large enough to warrant this mapping in order to correct heads for density and transmissivities for viscosity so that effective modeling of the regional-aquifer systems may be accomplished. Professional Paper 1402-D.

**The Hydrologic Bench-Mark Program: A Standard to Evaluate Time-Series Trends in Selected Water-Quality Constituents for Streams in Georgia** examines the usefulness of USGS Hydrologic Bench-Mark Data in evaluating changes in surface-water-quality conditions in basins modified by human activity. The Survey began the Hydrologic Bench-Mark Program in 1958 to provide a hydrologic data-base on stream basins which are minimally affected by human impact. Comparison of temporal trends in various water-quality constituents from several streams in Georgia, including those for several bench-mark stations, indicate basin responses to changes in the chemical quality of atmospheric deposition, as well as various land uses and water uses associated with agricultural and urban land, or to changes in specific uses. Hydrologic bench-mark data bases make such analyses possible. Water Resources Investigation 84-4318.

## **Federal-State Cooperative Program**

**Test Well Installation and Water Quality, Hollywood Dump Area, Memphis, Tennessee**, was prepared in cooperation with the City of Memphis, Tennessee. Ground water is the sole source of potable water currently being used for municipal and industrial supplies in the Memphis area. The possibility that leachates from landfills and dumps known to contain hazardous substances might threaten this water source is a subject of public concern. For the study, monitor wells were installed and water samples collected and analyzed to determine if contaminants have entered the shallow unconfined aquifer. The shallow aquifer is underlain by a clay layer that provides protection for the deeper Memphis Sand, which is the principal source of potable water. High concentrations of synthetic organics have been found in the shallow aquifer, but no traces of the organic compounds have been found in the Memphis Sand. Other constituents and properties were found to be at levels that are normal for this aquifer. Water Resources Investigation 84-4214.

**Aldicarb Pesticide Contamination of Ground Water in Eastern Suffolk County, Long Island, New York** was prepared in cooperation with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, and the Suffolk County Water Authority. Aldicarb, a highly toxic pesticide, was used to control insect infestations in potato farms over large areas of eastern Long Island during the period 1975-1979. The pesticide was believed to have a short half-life and small soil penetration, and therefore was considered incapable of causing ground-water contamination. However, widespread contamination of ground water by aldicarb was confirmed by extensive sampling during 1979-80 in the upper glacial aquifer, the principal source of drinking water in the area. The recently released report describes results of further studies which indicate that aldicarb concentrations will not be less than 7 ug/L, the established drinking-water standard for the pesticide, before 1990 or later. Water Resources Investigation 84-4251.

**Ground-Water Problems in Arkansas** was prepared in cooperation with several agencies of the State of Arkansas, and in line with the "Water Quality Management Plan" developed by the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology. A principal objective of the plan is to develop and establish a systematic approach to the protection of the State's ground-water quality. The report provides information on the occurrence, problems, and potential problems of ground water in Arkansas as a step in meeting that objective. The problems include contamination, poor natural quality, overdraft, and low yields. Contamination of surficial aquifers has been attributed to human and animal wastes, industrial wastes, and saline-water encroachment in areas of ground-water overdraft. Water Resources Investigation 85-4010.

**Quality of Arkansas River and Irrigation Return Flows in the Lower Arkansas River Valley, Colorado**, prepared in cooperation with the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, describes the quality of the Arkansas River and irrigation return flows in the Lower Arkansas River Valley, Colorado. Fifty-nine irrigation return flows from just below Pueblo Reservoir to the Colorado-Kansas State line, were sampled once during the 1976 and 1977 irrigation seasons. Water-quality standards at about one-third of the sites were exceeded for one or more constituents, mostly manganese. Concentrations of trace elements were not determined in this study.  
Water Resources Investigation 84-4273.

**Feasibility of Artificial Recharge to the 800-Foot Sand of the Kirkwood Formation in the Coastal Plain Near Atlantic City, New Jersey** was prepared in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, to evaluate a principal and practical approach to providing a dependable water supply for the Atlantic City area. Renewed economic development in the area has increased demand for water, resulting in greater pumpage from the 800-foot sand of the Kirkwood formation. Greater ground-water withdrawals not only reduce the quantity of water in storage, but also increase the potential for saltwater intrusion. The report (1) provides a review of methods for artificial recharge with emphasis on operational problems, (2) describes the local hydrogeological conditions, and (3) presents and interprets the water-quality data collected during the investigation. The major problem with artificial recharge is related to the quality of the recharge water.  
Water Resources Investigation 85-4063.

**The Ground-Water System and Simulated Effects of Ground-Water Withdrawals in Northern Utah Valley, Utah**, prepared in cooperation with the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Rights, evaluated the ground-water resources of northern Utah Valley. The valley is one of the fastest growing areas in the United States, as evidenced by the growth of urban population from about 72,000 in 1960 to about 164,000 in 1980. In order to meet water needs of the increased population, annual ground-water withdrawals for public supply increased from about 5,000 acre-feet to about 20,000 acre-feet during the late 1970's. The report describes the hydraulic properties and recharge to and discharge from the ground-water system in the valley and projects the effects of potential increases in withdrawals on ground-water levels. This involved the use of a three-dimensional digital model. Water-level declines of as much as 25 feet are foreseen for the 20-year period 1980-2000. The model indicates that in addition to increased ground-water withdrawals, changes in recharge to the principal ground-water reservoir are a major cause of variations in water levels.  
Water Resources Investigation 85-4007.

**Hydrology of Major Estuaries and Sounds of North Carolina,** prepared in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, presents a basic picture of the major water features in terms of fresh water inflow, tide-affected flow, water levels, fresh water quality, salinity, and sedimentation--utilizing USGS data where available, and filling gaps when possible with information from other agencies. The summary of current basic knowledge of the hydrology of the estuaries and sounds is valuable for management decisions and for use in planning future estuarine studies. The investigation identified contamination by municipal and industrial wastes, excessive shoaling in some navigation channels, salt-water intrusion into usually fresh estuarine reaches, too-high or too-low salinity nursery areas for various estuarine species, and flood damage due to hurricanes.  
Water Supply Paper 2221.

**Traveltime and Dispersion in the Potomac River, Cumberland, Maryland, to Washington, D.C.** was prepared in cooperation with the District of Columbia Department of Environmental Services; the Fairfax County, Virginia, Water Authority; the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin; the Maryland Department of Natural Resources; and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. It presents results of a study to describe the movement of soluble material in the river and to present techniques for predicting traveltimes and concentration attenuation at downstream locations resulting from spillage of any amount of soluble contaminant at any point along the river. The flow during the study was at approximately the 90-percent flow duration level. Data from this study were combined with those from an earlier study to develop the described general procedure for predicting traveltime and concentration. Techniques are of particular use and apply to almost any spillage problem that occurs during periods of relatively steady flow of between 50- and 95-percent flow duration.  
Water Supply Paper 2257.

**Geohydrology and Model Analysis of Stream-Aquifer System Along the Arkansas River in Kearny and Finney Counties, Southwestern Kansas** was published in cooperation with the Division of Water Resources, Kansas State Board of Agriculture (KSBA). The report was requested because of concern over decreasing streamflow and declining water levels in wells, and the need for a better understanding of ground- and surface-water interaction along the Arkansas River. In 1977, the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources, KSBA, declared a moratorium on approval of applications for permits to appropriate water from an area of 500 square miles along the Arkansas River in southwest Kansas. The report provides information on the hydrologic relationships between the Arkansas River and water levels in the unconsolidated aquifer system, and the extent to which diversion from either source might impair water use under existing rights.  
Water Supply Paper 2253.

**Compilation of Water Resources Development and Hydrologic Data of Saipan, Mariana Islands**, was prepared by the USGS in cooperation with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The report summarizes the history of water-resources development on Saipan and presents all available hydrologic data. The data include rainfall records since 1901 from German, Japanese, and U.S. sources; streamflow records since 1968; and an almost complete compilation of drilling logs, pumping tests, chemical analyses, and production figures for the 180 test holes and wells drilled on the island. Ground water is the main source of water for the island, and production reached more than four million gallons per day in September 1983.  
Water Resources Investigation 84-4121.

**Cost Effectiveness of the Stream-Gaging Program in New Jersey**, prepared in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Resources, is the latest of the series of periodic and systematic evaluations of the streamflow program by the USGS which is doing a nationwide analysis of its streamflow information program over the 5-year period 1983-1987. The New Jersey study shows that minor changes can be made in the mix of station types (currently 101 continuous, 73 crest-stage and stage-only), and that, by and large, the program is meeting its objectives and the expressed water data needs in a cost-effective manner.  
Water Resources Investigation 84-4108.

## **Other Federal Agency Program**

**Simulated Ground-Water Flow in the Potomac Aquifer, New Castle County, Delaware**, prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, presents an evaluation of Delaware ground water. The report gives the results of computer simulations and evaluates effects of future ground-water withdrawals from the Potomac aquifers. The Potomac Formation is a major source of water for the towns and industries of New Castle county. A steady increase in pumping since the mid-1900's has created both regional and local areas of depression centered about well fields in the county, and water levels have been drawn down about 200 feet below sea level. The decline near brackish estuaries and man-made sources of contamination has caused concern about future increased withdrawal from the Potomac aquifer. A model was developed, calibrated, and used to evaluate changes in water levels from several scenarios of future pumpage. Major declines in water level are projected from 1980-2005 for the various proposed increased rates of pumpage. Even if no change in pumpage were to take place, water levels would continue to decline in the order of 25 feet.  
Water Resources Investigation 84-4007.

**Ground-Water Availability along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia**, prepared in cooperation with the National Park Service, describes the geohydrologic conditions along the parkway which covers 220 miles from Rockfish Gap, Augusta County, central Virginia, to the North Carolina border. Its principal purpose was to identify favorable areas for future ground-water development along the parkway. The Blue Ridge Parkway traverses an area having numerous overlooks, hiking trails, and recreational facilities that are visited by an increasing number of people each year. The Park Service has developed long-range plans to meet increasing public demand. These plans include expansion of existing recreational facilities as well as development of new facilities at selected sites along the parkway. Water supplies for these facilities will be derived from drilled wells and (or) springs. However, wells are preferred because they are less susceptible to surface contamination than are springs.  
Water Resources Investigation 84-4168.

**Reconnaissance of Water Quality at a U.S. Department of Energy Site, Pinellas County, Florida**, prepared for the Department of Energy (DOE), summarizes the surface-water and ground-water quality conditions at the site to detect impacts, if any, of treatment and disposal activities. The DOE plant has been in operation since 1956. The facility, operated by General Electric, treated combined sanitary and industrial wastes by extended aeration and chlorination with ultimate disposal by spray injection on a 10-acre tract within the plant site and discharge into two ponds on the site. Water samples from specially constructed wells and the two ponds were analyzed for a number of priority and nonpriority pollutants.  
Water Resources Investigation 85-4062.

**The Ground-Water System and Possible Effects of Underground Coal Mining in the Trail Mountain Area, Central Utah**, prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, provides hydrologic information needed to assess the hydrologic effects of coal mining. Trail Mountain was selected for the study because of its geologic and hydrologic similarities to much of the Wasatch Plateau. Hydrogeologic evaluations and computer simulations of the study area indicate that future underground mines may require dewatering of inflows of as much as several hundred gallons per minute. Subsidence will occur above future underground mines, and subsidence fractures possibly would extend from the mine roof to a shallow perched aquifer several hundred feet above. Such fractures would increase downward percolation of water and increase inflows to underground mines.  
Water Supply Paper 2259.

**Ground-Water Contamination in East Bay Township, Michigan**, prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard, describes results of a study to document the occurrence, extent, and movement of contaminated ground water from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station to the East Arm Grand Traverse Bay. Chemical analyses located a plume of organic chemicals that follows ground-water flow lines. The plume, estimated to range from 180 to 400 feet wide, is in glacial deposits that comprise the principal aquifer tapped for water by all wells in the area. Sources of contamination were traced to the vicinity of past drum storage, aircraft maintenance operations, and fuel storage and dispensing facilities on the Air Station property.  
Water Resources Investigation 85-4064.

**Geohydrology and Water Resources of the Papago Farms-Great Plain Area, Papago Indian Reservation, Arizona, and the Upper Rio Sonoyta Area, Sonora, Mexico** was prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The appraisal was prompted by the increased demand for ground water to meet the growing irrigation and public supply requirements in the study area. Water in the aquifer is moderate-to-poor in chemical quality for irrigation and public supply use. High concentrations of sodium and bicarbonate present potential hazards to most crops, and the use of the waters requires careful farm management practices.  
Water Supply Paper 2258.



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