

DESCRIPTION OF FLOOD

Peak Stages and Discharges

Peak stages and discharges were determined at many gaging stations and miscellaneous sites throughout the four-State area affected by the flooding. Table 2 lists provisional data for these sites. Included in table 2 is a map number corresponding to the numbers on figure 2 which shows the location of each site. General information shown in table 2 includes: (1) the downstream order station number; (2) the station name and location; (3) drainage area; (4) the period of record, indicating period where systematic observations of streamflow records were collected; (5) date, peak stage, and discharge for the maximum flood previously known; and (6) the date, maximum stage, and discharge for the November 1985 flood.

The frequency, or recurrence interval, of the floods, as shown in table 2, is the average number of years between floods equal to or greater than the November 4-5, 1985 event. It is emphasized that this is an average number of years, and it does not imply that it will be that many years before another event of that magnitude occurs. In fact, similar or greater events can occur within the same year. The reciprocal of the frequency is the probability of the event occurring in any one year. For instance, a 100-year flood has a 0.01 probability or 1 percent chance, of occurring in any year. All frequencies, or recurrence intervals, were determined from station data, unless otherwise noted. Log Pearson III procedures, as described by the Water Resources Council (1981), were used to compute individual station frequency curves.

Flood Hydrographs

Gage-height hydrographs for the November 1985 flood are shown in figure 3. These hydrographs are for selected gaging stations to show the relative magnitude of flooding in various parts of the affected area.