WATER RESOURCES ACTIVITIES
IN KENTUCKY, 1993-94

Compiled by Linda S. Maglothin and Robert W. Forbes

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Open-File Report 93-157

Louisville, Kentucky
1994
A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT CHIEF

In recent years we have become increasingly aware of problems related to protection of the environment. The solution to these problems is not and cannot be the responsibility of any one agency or individual alone. Citizens, industries, and governmental agencies must recognize their roles and responsibilities in maintaining our State and Nation in a manner that will enable us to live happy, healthy, and prosperous lives.

The task before us is not an easy one. Our Nation achieved greatness on the basis of its pioneer spirit, vast natural resources, and industrial genius. To continue as a great nation, we must develop and manage our resources wisely, and at the same time, protect the quality of the environment in which we live. The Kentucky District of the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, recognizes its responsibility in this endeavor.

The Kentucky District, in cooperation with State, local, and other Federal agencies, has been collecting hydrologic data in Kentucky since the early 1900's and conducting water-resources studies since the mid-1900's to ensure that facts are available to aid in the development, management, protection, and conservation of our water resources. The scope of the present cooperative program is broad; it includes elements ranging from basic data collection on the occurrence, availability, and quality of water to detailed research studies in areas such as urban hydrology, fate and transport of toxic substances, karst hydrology, bridge scour, and aquatic biology.

The water-resources program of the Kentucky District is described in this publication. The effort devoted to basic and applied research, data collection, and interpretive studies, which will provide the facts to guide wise management of the water resources and protection of the environment, is evidence that we have accepted the challenge to do our part to meet the present and future needs of our State and Nation. Our goal is to continue to explore every opportunity to promote communication, education, and cooperation by working together across lines of scientific disciplines and across lines of governmental responsibility to achieve the level of excellence needed to provide earth science for the common good now and for future generations.

Alfred L. Knight
District Chief
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INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is the principal Federal water-resources data collection and investigation agency. Through the Water Resources Division District Office in Kentucky, the USGS investigates the occurrence, distribution, quantity, movement, and chemical and biological quality of surface and ground water in the State. The mission of this program is to collect, interpret, and publish information on water resources. Almost all research and data collection is a cooperative effort in which planning and financial support are shared by State and local agencies and governments. Other activities are funded by other Federal agencies or by direct Congressional appropriation.

This report is intended to inform the public and cooperating agencies, vitally interested in the water resources of Kentucky, as to the current status of the District’s data collection and investigation program. Included in the report are summaries of water-resources activities in Kentucky conducted by the USGS. Also included is a description of the USGS mission and program, District organization, funding sources and cooperating agencies, and a list of USGS publications relevant to the water resources of the State.

ORIGIN AND MISSION OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The USGS was established by an act of Congress on March 3, 1879, to provide a permanent Federal agency to conduct the systematic and scientific classification of the public lands, and examination of the geological structure, mineral resources, and products of national domain. An integral part of that original mission includes publishing and disseminating the earth-science information needed to understand, effectively utilize, and manage the Nation’s energy, land, mineral, and water resources.

A major effort of fulfilling the mission of the USGS is provided by the Water Resources Division. The Water Resources Division provides the hydrologic information and understanding needed for the optimum utilization, management, and protection of the Nation’s water resources for the overall benefit of the people of the United States.

Since 1879, the research and fact-finding role of the USGS has grown and been modified to meet the changing needs of the Nation it serves. As part of that evolution, the USGS has become the Federal Government’s largest earth-science research agency, the largest civilian map-making agency, the primary source of data for surface-water and ground-water resources, and the employer of the largest number of professional earth scientists. Today’s programs serve a diversity of the Nation’s needs and users.

Along with its continuing commitment to meet the growing and changing earth-science needs of the Nation, the USGS remains dedicated to its original mission to collect, analyze, interpret, publish, and disseminate information about the natural resources of the Nation—providing Earth Science in the Public Service.
This is accomplished, in large part, through District offices in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies by:

- Collecting, on a systematic basis, data needed for the continuing determination and evaluation of the quantity, quality, and use of the Nation's water resources.
- Conducting analytical and interpretive water-resources appraisals describing the occurrence, availability, and the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of surface water and ground water.
- Conducting supportive basic and problem-oriented research in hydraulics, hydrology, water chemistry and biology, and related fields of science to improve the scientific basis for investigations and measurement techniques and to understand hydrologic systems sufficiently well to quantitatively predict their response to stress, either natural or human-induced.
- Disseminating water data and the results of these investigations and research through reports, maps, computerized information services, and other forms of public releases.
- Coordinating the activities of Federal agencies in the acquisition of water data for streams, lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, and ground water.
- Providing scientific and technical assistance in hydrologic fields to other Federal, State, and local agencies, to licensees of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and to international agencies on behalf of the U.S. Department of State.
- Acquiring, developing, and disseminating information on water-related natural hazards such as droughts, floods, land subsidence, landslides, mudflows, and volcanoes.
- Administering the provisions of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984, which include the State Water Resources Research Institutes and the Research Grants and Contracts Programs.

The Kentucky District and agencies of the State of Kentucky have had cooperative agreements for the systematic collection of streamflow data since 1938. However, the collection of surface-water data was begun at a few selected sites in 1907. The earliest recorded ground-water levels in Kentucky were measured in 1935 in the Louisville-Jefferson County area under the supervision of the Louisville City Engineer. These records were made available to the USGS in the early 1940's when ground-water resources investigations were started in the area. Also in the 1940's, the beginnings of a statewide ground-water level observation network was implemented; however, State cooperator support for statewide ground-water data collection was discontinued in 1984. Over the past several decades, numerous investigative reports have been completed. A listing of reports published by the USGS, or by the cooperating agency for a specific project, relevant to the water resources of Kentucky is provided later in this report.
KENTUCKY DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Kentucky District is part of the Great Lakes-Ohio Valley Area of the USGS Water Resources Division which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The District is comprised of the State of Kentucky with the District office in Louisville and field headquarters in Paducah, Prestonsburg, and Williamsburg. The organization of the District is shown below, the location of USGS offices in Kentucky is shown on page 4, and the list of District personnel (many of whom assisted in gathering information for this report) is given on page 5.
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, OFFICES IN KENTUCKY

District Office
2301 Bradley Avenue
Louisville, KY 40217
Telephone: (502) 582-5242

Paducah Field Headquarters
501 Broadway, Room M17
Paducah, KY 42001
Telephone: (502) 443-1252

Prestonsburg Field Headquarters
HCR 70, Box 541
Van Lear, KY 41265
Telephone: (606) 886-9432

Williamsburg Field Headquarters
P. O. Box 1028
Williamsburg, KY 40769
Telephone: (606) 549-2406
KENTUCKY DISTRICT PERSONNEL

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT CHIEF

Knight, Alfred L., District Chief
Maglothin, Linda S.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
SECTION

Haynes, C. Regina,
   Administrative Officer
Vertrees, Linda K.
Wolfe, Edith M.

HYDROLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS
SECTION

Mesko, Thomas O.,
   Assistant District Chief
Forbes, Robert W.
Haag, Kim H.
Jarrett, G. Lynn
Mueller, David S.
Mull, Donald S.
Nelson, Hugh L.
Poole, Jane M.
Rose, Martin F.
Shreve, Elizabeth A.
Starn, J. Jeffrey
Stich, Bonnie J.
Taylor, Charles J.
Unthank, Michael D.

HYDROLOGIC SURVEILLANCE
SECTION

Rollins, Harry C.,
   Assistant District Chief
Allen, H. Charles
Berlejung, R. Joseph
Brendeimeter, Paul J.
Couts, Saundra J.

Eichert, D. Wayne
Evaldi, Ronald D.
Garcia, Rene
Griffin, Michael S.
Haliday, Amy D.
Hitchcock, Harry A.
Kloft, Loren G.
Martin, Gary R.
McClain, Dennis L.
McCombs, Gregory K.
Moore, Brian L.
Ottersbach, Paula L.
Pinkelton, Yolanda E.
Puckett, R. Edward
Ruhl, Kevin J.
Sholar, Clyde J.
Zettwoch, Douglas D.

Paducah Field Headquarters

Brown, Alan C.,
   Supervisory Hydrologic Technician
Darnell, Roy S.
Filbeck, James D.
Hubbard, G. Lynn

Prestonsburg Field Headquarters

Hensley, Zeke

Williamsburg Field Headquarters

Byrd, F. Davis,
   Supervisory Hydrologic Technician
Dirrim, Anthony K.
Flannery, Tonya C.
Moses, Clifford R.
Pickard, Stephen B.
KENTUCKY DISTRICT FUNDING SOURCES

Financial support for hydrologic data collection and investigations in Kentucky comes from the: (1) Federal-State Cooperative Program (COOP), where funds from local, regional, or State agencies and governments are matched with USGS funds; (2) transfer of funds from other Federal agencies (OFA); and (3) direct Congressional appropriations to the USGS (Federal) for hydrologic networks and investigative programs (referred to in this report as the USGS Federal Program). The sources of funding for District operations during Federal fiscal year 1993 are shown below and a list of cooperating agencies is shown on the following page.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

- Coop (60%)
- OFA (27%)
- Federal (13%)
Agencies supporting water-resources activities in Kentucky:

**Bullitt County, Kentucky**
- City of Campbellsville
- City of Elizabethtown
- City of Fulton
- City of Georgetown
- City of Lewisburg
- Glasgow Water Company
- Kentucky Air National Guard
- Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet,
  - Department of Environmental Protection
    - Division of Water
    - Division of Waste Management
- Kentucky State University

**Kentucky Tourism Cabinet,**
- Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
- Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
- Kentucky Utilities Company
- Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District
- Owensboro Municipal Utilities
- Public Service Indiana
- Purchase Area Development District
- University of Louisville
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of the Army
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation
KENTUCKY DISTRICT PUBLIC-INFORMATION AND PUBLIC-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

As part of the Kentucky District’s responsibility to provide data and information on Kentucky’s water resources to landowners, water users, public officials, business concerns, professional consultants, and the general public, District staff are involved in numerous other activities in addition to our regular programs of hydrologic data collection and investigations. Much of the daily activity involves providing information on a wide range of hydrologic, geologic, geographic, and environmental topics. District staff are also involved in public education. Staff routinely are asked to be guest speakers at primary and secondary schools and meetings of public interest groups, and serve as instructors and guest lecturers at colleges and universities. Staff members also coordinate the judging for the Environmental Section of the Annual Louisville Regional Science Fair and serve as judges for the Environmental and Earth Sciences Sections for science fairs held in the Louisville metropolitan area.

Equally important is the involvement of District staff as appointed members of advisory committees, task forces, and work groups of professional societies and Federal, State, or local governmental agencies. These include:

- Advisory Committee of the Ohio River Basin Commission
- American Society of Civil Engineers’ Task Committee on Bridge Scour
- Committee on Research and Policy of the Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute
- Contributing Sponsor for the 1992 North American Benthological Society Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky
- Coordinating Committee for Mammoth Cave Agricultural Nonpoint Source Demonstration Project
- Federal Emergency Management Agency Interagency Flood Assessment Team
- Kentucky Ground-Water Advisory Council
- Kentucky Ground-Water Data Management Committee
- Kentucky Ground-Water Monitoring Guideline Committee
- Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet Scholarship Committee
- Kentucky Rivers Assessment Advisory Committee
- Kentucky Soils Survey Work Planning Group
- Kentucky Water Availability Advisory Council
- Kentucky Water Interagency Coordinating Committee for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention
- Nonpoint Source Advisory Committee of the Kentucky Division of Water
- Ohio River Basin Consortium for Research and Education
- Technical Review Committee for the Master Storm Water Management Plan of the Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Federal Interagency Review Group for Nonpoint Source Demonstration and Hydrologic Unit Projects
Hydrologic data, or basic data as they are commonly called, are critical to the investigations conducted by the USGS and other researchers. The basic data programs conducted by the Kentucky District provide streamflow, ground-water level, sediment, precipitation, water-quality, and water-use information essential for the management and protection of the State’s water resources. The District’s hydrologic data are available on computer disks and are published in the annual data report titled “Water Resources Data for Kentucky” and other publications.
PROBLEM: Surface-water information is needed for surveillance, planning, design, hazard warning, operation, management, and protection purposes relevant to water supply, wasteload allocation, hydroelectric power, flood control, forecasting, irrigation, bridge and culvert design, fish and wildlife management, flood-plain management, and water-resources assessment and development. To provide this information, an appropriate surface-water data base is necessary.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Collect surface-water data sufficient to satisfy needs for current-purpose uses.
2. Collect data necessary for analytical studies to define for any location the statistical properties of, and trends in, the occurrence of water in streams, lakes, and reservoirs for use in planning and design.
3. Operate a network of real-time stations where surface-water data are transmitted by a data-collection platform (DCP) to Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) and received by ground stations which transmit the data to computers at the USGS and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for current-purpose use and special studies.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and USGS Federal Program.

STATE COOPERATOR: Kentucky Division of Water

LOCAL COOPERATORS: Bullitt County
City of Campbellsville
City of Fulton
City of Georgetown
City of Lewisburg

Glasgow Water Company
Kentucky Utilities Company
Louisville and Jefferson County
Metropolitan Sewer District
Public Service Indiana
University of Louisville
**PROBLEM:** Long-term ground-water-level data are needed to measure the effects of human activities and natural events, to assist in the prediction of future water supplies, and to provide data for the management and protection of the ground-water resource.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Collect ground-water-level data sufficient to provide a minimum, long-term data base so that the general response of the hydrologic system to natural (climatic) variations and human-induced stresses is known and potential problems can be defined early enough to allow proper planning, management, and protection.

2. Provide a data base against which short-term data acquired as part of areal and site-specific studies can be analyzed.

**FUNDING:** Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program and the USGS Federal Program.

**LOCAL COOPERATORS:** Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District
City of Elizabethtown
**PROBLEM:** Water-resource planning and water-quality assessment require a nationwide base level of standardized data. For the planning, management, protection, and assessment of the surface-water resource, the physical, chemical, and biological quality of the streams must be defined and monitored. The National Stream-Quality Accounting Network (NASQAN) is being implemented in Kentucky to provide such data.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Provide a National data base of surface-water quality information for use in broad Federal and State planning, management, protection, and assessment programs.
2. Provide data for State and Federal management of streams.

**FUNDING:** Funding is provided by the USGS Federal Program.
**PROBLEM:** Sediment plays an important role in the transport of constituents in surface-water and karst-aquifer systems. Concentrations of nutrients, trace elements, pesticides, and other constituents adsorbed to suspended sediments or streambed sediments are commonly several orders of magnitude higher than in the dissolved phase. Quantification of nonpoint source loads of constituents cannot be determined without definition of suspended-sediment and streambed-sediment loads. Water-resource management and protection efforts require a nationwide data base of standardized sediment data.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Collect and publish suspended-sediment data.
2. Contribute to a national data base of suspended-sediment data.

**FUNDING:** Funding is provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the USGS Federal Program.
**PROBLEM:** The water resources of Kentucky are used more extensively with each passing year. Although information has been developed about the occurrence and quality of the resource, relatively little has been done to describe where, how, and in what quantities water is being used. Without such information, decision makers cannot resolve critical problems related to water demand and allocation, water quality, environmental impact, and energy development.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Determine the quantity of surface and ground water that is withdrawn and its uses, the quantity of water consumed during use, and the quantity of water returned to streams and aquifers after use.
2. Update a computerized statewide water-use data base.
3. Publish reports of water use in Kentucky.

**FUNDING:** Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

**STATE COOPERATOR:** Kentucky Division of Water
**PROBLEM:** The amount of substances dispersed in the atmosphere and deposited by precipitation is a potentially significant nonpoint source of water contamination. Thus, there is a need for reliable and long-term measurements of chemical constituents in precipitation. Such measurements are essential for responsible management of the agricultural, forest, and aquatic-ecosystem resources of the Nation. The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) was established for the purpose of conducting research on atmospheric deposition and its effects on water resources, agriculture, and forest lands in cooperation with Federal, State, and private research agencies. The USGS is participating in this program as part of the National Trends Network (NTN). Four stations are maintained in Kentucky with the station near Morehead being maintained by the Kentucky District.

**OBJECTIVES:**
1. Collect and publish chemical data for precipitation.

**FUNDING:** Funding is provided by the USGS Federal Program.
KENTUCKY DISTRICT HYDROLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS

A wide-ranging program of hydrologic investigations and research provides information essential to the protection and management of the water resources of Kentucky. Investigations cover, to some degree, all aspects of hydrology, water quality, and aquatic biology. The results of hydrologic investigations are presented in USGS publications, scientific journals, and at scientific meetings.
National Water-Quality Assessment Program -- Kentucky River Basin

(KY 86-071)

PROBLEM: The protection and enhancement of the quality of the Nation's water resources has become a priority concern, and as a result of this concern, water-quality programs have been implemented at the Federal, State, and local levels. Water management and protection decisions, which often involve the construction of waste-treatment facilities and assessment of the likely effects of contemplated changes in land- and water-management practices, are currently being made based on limited scientific information. Further, it has been difficult to scientifically evaluate the effectiveness of management and protection programs. Effective decision making requires adequate information and understanding of current water-quality conditions and trends. To meet this need, the USGS established the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program, with the Kentucky River basin selected as one of seven pilot studies to test and refine concepts for the program. This basin is the most densely populated river basin in the State. Surface-water quality is affected by wastewater discharges and a variety of nonpoint sources of contaminants, including agricultural and urban stormwater runoff, coal mining, oil production, landfills, and atmospheric deposition.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Provide a nationally consistent description of current water-quality conditions for a large part of the Nation's water resources.
2. Define long-term trends (or lack of trends) in water quality.
3. Identify, describe, and explain, to the extent possible, the major factors that affect observed water-quality conditions and trends in the Kentucky River Basin.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the USGS Federal Program.
PROBLEM: Knowledge of low-flow characteristics of Kentucky streams is critical for the proper management and protection of the resource. Low-flow information is needed for the allocation of wasteloads to receiving streams and for estimating the availability of surface water for competing domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses as well as for supporting recreation and stream ecology. Commonly, wastewater discharge limits and water-supply criteria are based on the 7-day, 10-year low-flow frequency value (7Q10). Presently, the amount and type of low-flow data collected in Kentucky are inadequate. Low-flow data at partial-record sites throughout Kentucky are needed to supplement streamflow information collected on a continuous basis.

OBJECTIVES:
2. Update low-flow statistics for the continuous-record gaging stations for unregulated streamflow periods and for the low-flow partial-record sites.
3. Develop techniques to estimate these low flows for ungaged stream sites in Kentucky.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

STATE COOPERATOR: Kentucky Division of Water
PROBLEM: Hydrology is a study that integrates many areas of natural resources and human activities. As such, hydrology uses many types of information from diverse sources in differing scales and formats. The demand is rapidly growing for digital data bases and for the computer software to store and integrate this information. A geographic information system (GIS) is a computer software system that can assemble and analyze diverse data, using location as the common reference point. The need exists to assemble such information using GIS, focusing on hydrologic features, to assist in modeling, mapping, data storage and management, interactive display and query, and interpretation. GIS technology is a powerful tool for Federal, State, and local agencies and water managers in performing land- and water-resource assessments, for problem identification and assessment, and for resource planning, protection, and management.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Integrate a GIS with existing data base systems.
2. Manage, update, and maintain a hydrology-related GIS data base for Kentucky.
3. Test and demonstrate methods and procedures for compilation, display, and analysis using GIS.
4. Develop techniques to advance and support water-resources research and the use of GIS.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

LOCAL COOPERATORS: University of Louisville
Purchase Area Development District
Hydrologic Assessments at Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites

(KY 89-079)

PROBLEM: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that thousands of underground storage tanks are leaking or will leak. In response to the 1984 Subtitle I Amendment to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM) initiated a program to regulate underground storage tanks used to store petroleum products or other hazardous chemicals. The KDWM has requested technical assistance from the USGS in addressing hydrologic issues related to leaking underground storage tanks. The USGS provides a wide range of technical support to the KDWM. Such support can include but is not limited to:

- Geologic coring, drilling of monitoring wells, and installation of piezometers
- Soil, ground-water, and surface-water-quality sampling
- Water-level measurements, streamgaging, and surveying
- Design, implementation, and interpretation of aquifer tests
- Use of qualitative or quantitative dye-tracer tests to define directional trends or solute-transport characteristics of ground-water flow in karst and fractured-rock terranes

OBJECTIVES:
1. Locate and confirm the source of hydrocarbon compounds and other hazardous chemical contamination at underground storage tank sites.
2. Determine the degree and extent of contamination.
3. Assess the effect of such contamination on the quality of soils, ground water, surface water, and streambed sediments in the vicinity of underground storage tank sites.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

STATE COOPERATOR: Kentucky Division of Waste Management
PROBLEM: Jefferson County is experiencing increased urban development. As urbanization progresses, rural land is being developed for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes. Such development increases the potential for flooding and increases the types and quantities of contaminants being released to the urban streams from a variety of point and nonpoint sources, including effluents from domestic and industrial wastewater treatment plants, stormwater runoff, and leachates from septic tanks, surface impoundments, and landfills. Diverse hydrologic data are needed to define streamflow characteristics; to define current water-quality conditions throughout the range of flow conditions and seasons; to evaluate the effectiveness of flood-protection, water-management, and water-quality protection programs; and to evaluate contemplated changes in land- and water-management practices.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Collect rainfall, streamflow, and surface-water-quality data as part of a comprehensive, long-term hydrologic network.
2. Collect stormwater runoff quality data.
3. Use the resulting hydrologic data with an interpretation of urban stream hydrologic and water-quality conditions to define the relation between land use and the quality of urban stormwater runoff.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

LOCAL COOPERATOR: Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District
Hydrologic Investigation of Stress-Relief Fractures of a Steep-Sloped Valley in the Coal Areas of Eastern Kentucky

(KY 90-086)

PROBLEM: The characteristics of ground-water movement down steep-sloped valley walls in the coal-bearing rocks of eastern Kentucky and in similar areas of the Appalachian Plateaus and Valley and Ridge Provinces of the eastern United States are poorly understood. Research has shown that stress-relief fractures, both natural and caused by underground mining, constitute the most transmissive part of the aquifer systems and significantly affect the hydrology of the valleys in these areas. Previous USGS investigations of a fracture-flow aquifer system near Fishtrap Lake in Pike County have shown that ground water in rocks underlying the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field can move from areas of higher head to areas of lower head through various permeable zones thought to be hydrologically isolated. Results of dye-tracer tests indicate that underground coal mining and subsequent subsidence in the mined-out seam have altered the natural ground-water flow system. There are limited data to describe the hydraulic properties of the fracture zone and the nature of ground-water flow beneath hillsides and valleys where these fractures occur.

OBJECTIVES:
2. Better define the velocity of dye movement down a steep slope in coal-bearing rocks.
3. Ascertain if dye injected during a previous study was diverted to an abandoned underground coal mine and then discharged through mine drainage at some distance from the injection site and monitoring wells.
4. Use results of dye-tracer tests to better define the hydraulic properties of the fracture zones.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.
PROBLEM: In Kentucky, many public and private water supplies are obtained from springs discharging from karstified bedrock. Karst springs are the outlets of subsurface drainage systems that consist of dissolutionally enlarged fractures and pipe-like openings known as conduits. Recharge to the conduit network within a karst ground-water basin occurs through the relatively direct and rapid infiltration of precipitation and surface runoff by way of sinkholes and sinking streams. Consequently, karst aquifers are especially vulnerable to contamination. If the quality of a spring-based water supply is to be protected, the recharge area of the spring must be delineated, and the potential sources of contamination within the recharge area must be identified and controlled. City Spring and Gaithers Spring are the principal sources of water for the City of Elizabethtown, serving a population of approximately 12,500. This is the second largest public water supply in the State relying on springs.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Demonstrate geohydrologic mapping techniques, including ground-water tracing studies, for the identification of interconnections between sinkholes and springs.
2. Locate and map the physical boundaries of the karst ground-water basin drained by each water-supply spring.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

STATE COOPERATOR: Kentucky Division of Water
PROBLEM:  Ground-water appraisals for the entire State have been published by the USGS as a series of Hydrologic Investigations Atlases (HA's). The HA's for the alluvial aquifer along the Ohio River and the aquifer system in the Jackson Purchase Region are fairly detailed and are based on a large number of inventoried wells and springs and detailed geologic-quadrangle maps (GQ's). Other HA's that cover large areas of the State, are based on limited well and spring inventory data, and were published before the detailed GQ's were completed. The inventories, mostly conducted in the 1950's, generally included sparse quantitative data on aquifer hydrologic and water-quality characteristics. Since the publishing of the HA's, additional research has defined the ground-water resources in selected areas of the State; however, there has not been a comprehensive effort to update the well and spring inventory data. State, local, and Federal water-management and protection agencies need comprehensive, up-to-date information on the ground-water resources of Kentucky.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Illustrate the use of data from an up-to-date inventory of wells and springs, GQ's, and recent ground-water studies to better define the water-bearing characteristics of geologic units.
2. Enhance the ground-water-quality data base for the pilot study area.
3. Illustrate the use of geographic information system (GIS) technology, which will be used to generate the map products for the pilot study area, to enhance the analysis and presentation of the data.
4. Provide the basis for determining the feasibility and desirability of updating other HA's in Kentucky.

FUNDING:  Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

STATE COOPERATOR:  Kentucky Division of Water

LOCAL COOPERATOR:  University of Louisville
PROBLEM: Agriculture is a major nonpoint source of surface- and ground-water contamination in many parts of the Nation, including Kentucky. However, the extent of the problem including the occurrence, distribution, fate, and transport of agricultural chemicals, especially pesticides and nutrients, have not been defined. Further, the effectiveness of best management practices (BMP’s) for improving the quality of surface and ground water affected by agricultural activities has not been fully documented. Therefore, the USGS, in cooperation with Kentucky State University (KSU), is conducting research for the purpose of describing and assessing hydrologic effects and processes associated with agricultural management practices with emphasis on sustainable agricultural practices.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Instrument test plots where various agricultural chemicals have been applied at the KSU Research Farm for the collection of climatological and soil-moisture data, stormwater runoff, and soil-water samples.
2. Test the effectiveness of selected BMP’s for soil management and the protection of surface- and ground-water quality.
3. Develop soil/water partitioning coefficients of selected herbicides in clay loam soil.
4. Evaluate the utility of a leaching model for predicting herbicide movement through the unsaturated zone.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the USGS Federal Program and Kentucky State University.

STATE COOPERATOR: Kentucky State University
**PROBLEM:** The Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet has established allowable, in-stream concentration limits, called water-quality criteria, for surface waters. Human-health criteria for toxic substances are based on nationally developed numerical criteria and associated risk factors. In 1990, the Kentucky Division of Water adopted the use of a statistic known as the harmonic-mean streamflow as the governing "design" flow for establishing point-source discharge limits for substances having human-health water-quality criteria. Adoption of this statistic was based on the conclusion that this value can provide the most representative estimate of long-term average, in-stream exposure concentrations of these substances. Values for the harmonic-mean streamflow are needed for all streams in Kentucky for the protection of the water resource.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Analyze available data from the streamflow-gaging network, located in and adjacent to Kentucky, to estimate long-term harmonic-mean streamflow values at streamflow-gaging stations, for both regulated and unregulated periods of record.

2. Develop a procedure for estimating the harmonic-mean streamflow value at ungaged stream sites not affected by regulation or local diversions.

**FUNDING:** Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

**STATE COOPERATOR:** Kentucky Division of Water
Assessment of the Effectiveness of Best Management Practices to Control Quality of Highway Runoff

(KY 90-091)

**PROBLEM:** Road surface contaminants, specifically trace elements, oil and grease, and other trace organics, are deposited from many sources within urbanized areas. These contaminants are subsequently carried to streams during storm events. Investigations have been conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of best management practices (BMP’s) to improve the quality of the surface runoff before the runoff enters a stream. However, similar studies have not been conducted to characterize the quality of highway runoff and evaluate the effectiveness of BMP’s to minimize ground- and surface-water-quality effects in less urbanized and rural areas in karst terrane. The research is being performed in Georgetown.

**OBJECTIVE:** Evaluate the effectiveness of selected BMP’s for highway runoff for protecting water quality in karst terrane.

**FUNDING:** Funding is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**STATE COOPERATOR:** Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
PROBLEM: Past operations of the 123rd Airlift Wing of the Kentucky Air National Guard, Standiford Field, in Louisville have involved the use of hazardous materials and waste. A preliminary assessment, conducted under the Installation Restoration Program, identified a fire training area (used from 1958-72) as being potentially contaminated with JP-4 fuel, gasoline, solvents, and strippers containing methylethylketone, methylisobutylketone, and trichloroethane. The proximity of the fire training area to several small karst springs and a wetland may have resulted in these sites being a collection area for the contaminants.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Determine if surface water, ground water, soils, or stream sediments are contaminated near the fire training area.
2. Determine the degree and extent of any contamination.
3. Assess the effect of such contamination on the quality of surface water, ground water, soils, and stream sediments.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the National Guard Bureau, Installation Restoration Program.
Simulation of Ground-Water Flow and the Behavior of Contaminant Plumes in the Alluvial Aquifer, Calvert City

(KY 91-094)

PROBLEM: The behavior of contaminant plumes in complex hydrogeologic settings is often misrepresented in risk assessments, ground-water monitoring networks, and remedial designs. River valley/alluvial aquifer hydraulics reflect the complexity of geologic deposition and unsteady boundary conditions. The study area, located on the southern bank of the Tennessee River, includes a public-supply wellfield threatened by an industrial complex which includes nine major industries, the two largest generators of hazardous waste in Kentucky, two Superfund sites, and several operative waste-disposal sites. The State, in cooperation with several Federal agencies, is conducting a comprehensive environmental investigation of the Calvert City area.

OBJECTIVES: The goal of the research is to contribute to scientific knowledge of the behavior of contaminant plumes in a river valley/alluvial aquifer hydrogeologic setting. Specific objectives include:

1. Develop a ground-water flow model to be used to identify flow paths and advective travel times.
2. Evaluate aquifer heterogeneity and fluctuating boundary conditions on contaminant transport.
3. Analyze, using the ground-water flow model, the effect of present and projected pumpage configurations, which includes municipal, industrial, and remedial wellfields, on ground-water flow paths and travel times.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

STATE COOPERATOR: Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
Empirical Methods for Determining Boundary Stresses at Bridge Piers and Abutments

(PROBLEM): Researchers have indirectly measured bed stresses under laboratory conditions and have found that bed stresses in the vicinity of model piers and abutments can be 4 to 12 times more than those of the undisturbed flow. The effects of scale on velocities and boundary-shear stresses in the model compared to full-scale prototype conditions are unknown. Therefore, a field investigation of velocities in the vicinity of bridge piers is needed to determine the applicability of model study results to actual field conditions. These data will be used to develop an empirical relation to predict bed stresses in the vicinity of bridge piers and abutments.

(OBJECTIVE): Investigate the process of scour mechanisms and riprap stability by determining the applicability of bed-stress measurements, obtained from small-scale model investigations of bridge piers, to bed-stress measurements observed at bridge sites.

(FUNDING): Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

(LOCAL COOPERATOR): University of Louisville
Simulation of Ground-Water Flow,  
Ohio River Alluvial Aquifer, Owensboro  
(KY 92-096)

**Problem:** The Ohio River alluvial aquifer in Owensboro serves as the sole source of drinking water for over 80,000 people in 4 counties. The wellfield consists of approximately 30 wells, making it the largest public ground-water supply in Kentucky. The aquifer is also used directly for industrial water supply and indirectly for waste disposal. Water demand is increasing, and the development of a new wellfield is planned. Most of the ground water extracted for use as public drinking water in Kentucky is developed from similar alluvial aquifers, as are many municipal wellfields across the country. Better tools for the delineation of areas recharging the alluvial aquifer are needed to provide a framework for land- and water-resource management and protection decisions.

**Objectives:**
1. Develop a preliminary ground-water flow model for defining the recharge areas for existing and potential public water-supply wells.
2. Perform a preliminary analysis of model sensitivity to boundary conditions.
3. Identify ground-water flow paths.
4. Demonstrate the use of geographic information system (GIS) technology for land- and water-resource management and protection decisions.

**Funding:** Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

**Local Cooperators:** City of Owensboro
PROBLEM: Detection of water-quality trends for trace metals and pesticides is difficult in many streams because of insufficient data collection and the high frequency of results that are below analytical detection levels. Freshwater mussels accumulate concentrations of trace constituents from water and suspended particulates in their tissues and shells, at levels that may be easily detected with existing laboratory methods. Native mussels frequently live longer than 20 years and accumulate concentrations of trace metals in annual shell layers that may potentially be used to estimate the direction and magnitude of water-quality trends. However, their distribution and total numbers are limited. The Asiatic clam (Corbicula) is present in many mid-order and smaller streams of the central and northeastern regions of the country, and although it typically lives for less than 5 years, it is available in large numbers. Although the environmental effect of trace metals and pesticides has been the subject of considerable attention and concern, much remains unknown about the sources, bioavailability, and bio-magnification potential of these constituents.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Determine which trace metals accumulate in shell layers of freshwater mussels and evaluate whether changes or trends in shell-layer concentrations may be used to assess long-term water-quality trends.
2. Evaluate the bio-availability and bio-magnification of trace metals and pesticides in tissues of Corbicula and native mussels.
3. Derive bioaccumulation factors (BAF's) for these constituents by comparing tissue concentrations with concentrations in water or by the application of rate-constant based toxicokinetic research.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the Federal-State Cooperative Program.

STATE COOPERATORS: Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Kentucky State University
Investigation of Subsurface Flow and Karst Hydrology
of the Lost River Watershed, South-Central Indiana

(KY 94-835)

PROBLEM: The Lost River flows across an extensive sinkhole plain developed on karsted Mississippian-age limestones in south-central Indiana. Near Orleans, Indiana, the Lost River is a dry-bed stream underdrained by solution conduits, and surface flows from the upper portion of the watershed are normally routed underground to a large artesian spring known as the Lost River Rise. Under high-flow conditions, the hydraulic capacity of the subsurface conduits is exceeded and flow returns to the surface stream channel, which functions as a flood-overflow route. When this occurs, rapid filling of the subsurface conduits and surface channel with water inhibits drainage of additional runoff and increases the potential of sinkhole flooding throughout the area. The presence of several large karst springs within the Lost River watershed indicates that the karstic subsurface drainage network is complex. Information is needed about karstic drainage routes within the Lost River watershed to facilitate a reconnaissance study of sinkhole flooding in the community of Orleans, Indiana, being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Conduct qualitative dye-tracing studies to determine ground-water flow paths from sinkholes, sinking streams, and stormwater drainage wells in the vicinity of Orleans, Indiana.
2. Identify the hydrologic boundaries of the subsurface karst drainage basins within the Lost River watershed.
3. Assess hydraulic characteristics of the subsurface conduits and ground-water/surface-water interactions.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
Determination of Catchment Area and Hydrologic
Characteristics of Boiling Spring,
Fort Campbell Military Base, Kentucky-Tennessee

(KY 94-840)

PROBLEM: Much of the area of the Fort Campbell Military Base, located along the Kentucky-Tennessee State line, is underlain by karsted Mississippian-age limestones. The base water supply is obtained from a large karst spring, known as Boiling Spring. Fort Campbell is preparing a water-supply management and Wellhead Protection Plan required by Tennessee State regulations. The size and hydrologic boundaries of the catchment (total recharge area) of Boiling Spring are unknown, as are the hydrologic (flow) characteristics of the spring. Information is needed in order to assess the suitability of the spring to provide a water supply adequate for current and future needs, to evaluate the potential impacts of contaminants on the base, and to develop an effective water-supply management and protection plan.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Perform qualitative dye-tracing studies to establish point-to-point connections between the water-supply spring and discrete points of recharge (sinkholes and sinking streams) on the base and to delineate the areal extent of the ground-water basin drained by Boiling Spring.

2. Perform quantitative dye-tracing studies of suspected losing surface stream reaches to confirm and quantify loss of flow volume and to determine the fraction of flow from losing stream reaches that provide recharge to the water-supply spring.

3. Perform quantitative dye-tracing studies to assess the hydraulic characteristics of the water-supply spring and to determine time-of-travel and concentration/dispersion factors for potential contaminants moving along specific ground-water flow paths from discrete points of recharge (sinkholes and sinking streams) on the base.

FUNDING: Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of the Army.
Superfund Technical Assistance Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has responsibility for implementing the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (otherwise known as CERCLA, SARA, or Superfund) in Kentucky. At selected sites, the USEPA has requested technical assistance from the USGS in addressing hydrologic issues.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement between the two Federal agencies, the Kentucky District is currently providing or has provided support during the remedial investigation and remedial action process at:

- Caldwell Lace-Leather Superfund Site, Logan County (KY 90-085)
- Distler Brickyard Superfund Site, Hardin County (KY 92-097)
- Green River Disposal Superfund Site, Daviess County (KY 91-093)
- Howe Valley Landfill Superfund Site, Hardin County (KY 90-083)
- Laurel County-Singleton Landfill Sites, Laurel County (KY 90-082)
- Lexington-Bluegrass Army Depot, Fayette County (KY 93-098)
- Maxey Flats Low-Level Radioactive Waste Superfund Site, Fleming County (KY 00-002)

The USGS provides a wide range of technical support to the USEPA. Such support can include, but is not limited to:

- Geologic coring, drilling of monitoring wells, and installation of piezometers
- Soil, ground-water, and surface-water-quality sampling
- Water-level measurements, streamgaging, and surveying
- Design, implementation, and interpretation of aquifer tests
- Interpretation of site data and review of project work plans and technical reports
- Qualitative or quantitative dye-tracer tests to define directional trends or solute-transport characteristics of ground-water flow in karst and fractured-rock terranes

Assistance in the overview of efforts of “principal responsible parties” during site investigation and remediation.
SOURCES OF WATER-RESOURCES INFORMATION
AND REFERENCES FOR KENTUCKY

USGS publications and other selected references on water resources in Kentucky are listed in this section. USGS Water-Resources Investigations (WRI) and Open-File (OF) Reports for Kentucky are generally available free of charge but in limited supplies. These reports are distributed by the District office in Louisville. All USGS publications and maps for Kentucky are available for inspection at the Kentucky District office in Louisville, and many of the reports are available for inspection at public and university libraries. New reports published by the USGS are announced monthly in "New Publications of the Geological Survey." Subscriptions to this monthly list are available free on request to the U.S. Geological Survey, MS 329, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 22092.

Questions specific to the water resources of Kentucky can be directed to the Kentucky District office. This office will answer inquiries about data, reports, and other Kentucky water-resources publications.

Alfred L. Knight, District Chief
U.S. Geological Survey, WRD
2301 Bradley Avenue
Louisville, KY 40217
(502) 582-5242

The USGS Office of Water Data Coordination (OWDC) is the focal point for interagency coordination of ongoing and planned water-data acquisition activities of all Federal agencies and many non-Federal organizations. The "National Handbook of Recommended Methods for Water-Data Acquisition," indexes to the "Catalog of Information on Water Data," and other publications are available from OWDC. For further information, write:

Office of Water Data Coordination
U.S. Geological Survey, MS 417
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 22092
(703) 648-5016

The National Water Data Exchange (NAWDEX) maintains a computerized data system that identifies sources of water data and indexes information on the water data available from the sources. The NAWDEX Program Office and local Assistance Centers assist data users in locating sources of water data, identifying sites at which data have been collected, and obtaining specific data. For further information write:

National Water Data Exchange
U.S. Geological Survey, MS 421
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 22092
(703) 648-5677
The National Water Information System (NWIS) is the water data base of the USGS. It contains data on stream discharge (flow) and stage (height), reservoir and lake storage, ground-water levels, well and spring discharge, and the quality of surface and ground water. For information about types and acquisition of data, contact the District Chief for Kentucky.

Earth Science Information Centers (ESIC's) offer nationwide information and sales service for USGS map products and earth science publications. This network of USGS ESIC's provides information about geologic, hydrologic, topographic, and land use maps, books, and reports. For further information contact one of the following or call 1-800-USA-MAPS:

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<tr>
<th>Earth Science Information Center</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Geological Survey</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>507 National Center</td>
<td>1849 C Street, NW, Room 2650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reston, VA 22092</td>
<td>Washington, DC 20240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone: (703) 648-6045</td>
<td>Telephone: (202) 208-4047</td>
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<td>TDD: (703) 648-4101*</td>
<td>TDD: (202) 219-1510*</td>
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* TDD—Telecommunications Device for the Deaf

Since 1879, the USGS has served the public and Federal, State, and local governments by collecting, analyzing, and publishing detailed information about the Nation's mineral, land, and water resources. This information is in a variety of map, book, and other formats and is available from several sources within the USGS. To order USGS book publications, catalogs, and pamphlets, or for information on the availability of microfiche or paper duplicate copies of WRI and OF Reports, write:

U.S. Geological Survey
Earth Science Information Center
Open-File Reports Section
Box 25286, MS 517
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

To order maps, write:

U.S. Geological Survey
Map Distribution
Box 25286, Building 810
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

Several reports may also be purchased as hard copy or microfiche from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161.
The following is a listing of references on the water resources of Kentucky by type of publication:

**PROFESSIONAL PAPERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors and Years</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Water resources of the Blue Grass Region, Kentucky, by G.C. Matson, 1909.</td>
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<td>The Ohio Valley flood of March-April 1913, by A.H. Horton and H.J. Jackson, 1913.</td>
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<tr>
<td>800</td>
<td>The floods of March 1936--Part 3, Potomac, James, and Upper Ohio Rivers, 1937.</td>
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</table>
WATER-SUPPLY PAPERS--continued


1257  Geology and ground-water resources of the Paintsville area, Kentucky, by J.A. Baker, 1955.


1328  Ground-water resources of the Hopkinsville quadrangle, Kentucky, by E.H. Walker, 1956.

1356  Geology and ground-water resources of the Henderson area, Kentucky, by E.J. Harvey, 1956.

1359  Geology and ground-water resources of the Prestonsburg quadrangle, Kentucky, by W.E. Price, Jr., 1956.

1360-B  Ground water in northeastern Louisville, Kentucky, by M.I. Rorabaugh, 1956.

1411  The deep channel and alluvial deposits of the Ohio Valley in Kentucky, by E.H. Walker, 1957.


1528  Geology and ground-water resources of the Scottsville area, Kentucky, by W.B. Hopkins, 1963.

1533  Reconnaissance of ground-water resources in the Blue Grass region, Kentucky, by W.N. Palmquist, Jr., and F.R. Hall, 1961.


1599  Reconnaissance of ground-water resources in the Western Coal Field region, Kentucky, by B.W. Maxwell and R.W. Devaul, 1962.


1819-C Summary of hydrologic conditions of the Louisville area, Kentucky, by E.A. Bell, 1965.


2202 Chloroform contamination in part of the alluvial aquifer, southwest Louisville, Kentucky, R.W. Davis and E.W. Matthews, 1983.


2275 National Water Summary 1984-Hydrologic events, selected water-quality trends, and ground-water resources, 1985 (State summary for Kentucky, p. 223-228).

2300 National Water Summary 1985-Hydrologic events and surface-water resources, 1986 (State summary for Kentucky, p. 245-250).
WATER-SUPPLY PAPERS--continued


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240 Geology and ground-water resources of the Covington-Newport alluvial area, Kentucky, by E.H. Walker, 1953.


287 Public and industrial water supplies of the Jackson Purchase region, Kentucky, by H.L. Pree, Jr., and W.H. Walker, 1953.


339 Public and industrial water supplies of the Western Coal Field region, Kentucky, by B.W. Maxwell, 1954.


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The National Water-Use Information Program, November 1983.


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WRI/OF 53-73 Ground water in the alluvium along the Green River between its mouth and Woodbury, Kentucky, by P.D. Ryder, 1974.
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5 Map of the Louisville area, Kentucky, showing contours on the bedrock surface, by L.M. MacCary, 1955.
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72 to 75 Geology and hydrology of alluvial deposits between the *** areas, Ohio River valley, Kentucky, 1963-64. 72, Hawesville and Cloverport areas. 73, South Portsmouth and Manchester Islands. 74, Lewisport and Owensboro. 75, Cattlesburg and South Portsmouth.

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