EXPLANATION

Flood-inundation area, depth in feet

- 0 to 1.0
- 1.1 to 2.0
- 2.1 to 5.0
- Greater than 5.0

Stream

Current U.S. Geological Survey streamgage and identifier

National Weather Service forecast point

Interstate marker

U.S. route marker

Illinois State route marker

UNCERTAINTIES AND LIMITATIONS FOR USE OF FLOOD-INUNDATION MAPS

Although the flood inundation maps represent the boundaries of inundated areas with a distinct line, some uncertainty is associated with these maps. The flood boundaries shown were estimated to reflect water stages (water-surface elevations) and streamflows at selected USGS streamgages. Water-surface elevations along the stream reach were estimated by steady-state hydraulic modeling, ensuring an extended flow, and using riverbank and water-surface elevations anticipated at the USGS streamgages. The hydraulic model reflects the land-cover characteristics and land elevation, area, and other hydraulic structures existing as of November 2013. Unique geotechnical factors (turf and duration of precipitation) may cause actual streamflows along the modeled reach to vary from those assumed during a flood, which may lead to deviations in the water-surface elevations and inundation boundaries shown. Additional areas may be flooded due to unexpected conditions such as changes in the streambed elevation or navigational backwater into minor tributaries along a main stem river, or backwater from localized debris or ice jams. The accuracy of the flood depth presented on these maps will vary with the accuracy of the digital elevation model used to simulate the land surface. Additional uncertainties and limitations pertinent to this study are described in the document accompanying this set of flood inundation map sheets.

If this series of flood-inundation maps will be used in conjunction with National Weather Service (NWS) river forecasts, the user should be aware of additional uncertainties that may be inherent or factored into NWS forecast procedures. The NWS uses forecast models to estimate the quantity and timing of water flowing through specified stream reaches in the United States. These forecast models (1) estimate the amount of runoff generated by precipitation and streamflow; (2) simulate the movement of freshwater as it proceeds downstream, and (2) predict the flow and stage (water-surface elevation) for the stream at a given location (NWS forecast point) throughout the forecast period (24 hours and 7-day outlook in many locations). For more information on NWS forecasts, please see http://water.weather.gov/ahps/pcpn_and_river_forecasting.pdf.

DISCLAIMER

Inundated areas shown should not be used for navigation, regulating, permitting, or other legal purposes. The USGS provides these maps “as is” for a quick references, emergency planning tool but assumes no legal liability or responsibility resulting from the use of this information.

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Uncertainties and limitations for use of flood-inundation maps
