EXPLANATION

Flood-inundation area, depth in feet

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

Stream

Limits of the study area

Stream flow direction

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 based on water stages (water-surface elevations) and streamflows at selected USGS streamgages. Water-surface elevations along the stream reaches were estimated by steady-state hydraulic modeling, assuming unobstructed flow, and using streamflow and water-surface elevation conditions anticipated at the USGS streamgages. The hydraulic model reflects the land cover characteristics and topography along the stream, and other hydraulic structures existing as of November 2012. Unique meteorological factors (timing and distribution 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 unusual weather conditions such as changes in the streambed elevation or navigation backwater into major tributaries along a main stem river, or backwater from localized debris or ice jams. The accuracy of the floodwater extent portrayed 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 quantities and timing of water flowing through selected stream reaches in the United States. These forecast models (1) estimate the amount of runoff generated by precipitation and snowmelt, (2) simulate the movement of floodwater as it proceeds downstream, and (3) predict the flow and stage of water-surface elevation for the stream at a given location (NWS forecast point) throughout the forecast period (every 6 hours and 3 to 5 days out in many locations). For more information on NWS forecasts, please see: http://water.weather.gov/ahps/pcpn_and_river_forecasting.pdf

DECLARATION

Inundated areas shown shall not be used for navigation, regulatory, permitting, or other legal purposes. The USGS provides these maps “as-is” for quick reference, emergency planning tools, and assumes no legal liability or responsibility resulting from the use of this information.

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For more information concerning this publication, contact:

Director, Illinois Water Science Center
U.S. Geological Survey
1201 University Ave., Suite 100
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 328–USGS (8747)

Or visit the Illinois Water Science Center Web site at: http://il.water.usgs.gov/


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By Elizabeth A. Murphy and Jennifer B. Sharpe

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