

**GROUND WATER**

This sheet describes water levels in the unconfined aquifer system of the Salem River study area and includes a water-level map based on water levels from wells and streams measured in October, November and December 1993. Hydrographs of water levels in five water-table observation wells are included, and the hydraulic properties of the aquifer system are discussed.

**Water Table**

Under natural conditions, water in unconfined aquifers generally flows from high land areas toward points of discharge in low-lying areas, such as wetlands, rivers, streams, and springs. The overall shape of the water table tends to be a subdued replica of the land surface. Where a water-table contour crosses a stream channel, it is shaped like a "V." For a gaining stream (a stream into which ground water flows along most of its length), the "V" points upward, indicating that nearby ground water is at a higher elevation than the water in the stream channel; therefore, ground water is flowing into the stream. The streams in the study area are principally gaining streams.

**Water-Level Map**

The water-table contour map (fig. 2-1) is based on water-level measurements made in 122 wells (table 2-1) and 175 streams (table 2-2) in October, November, and December 1993. The most accurate measurements are those made in wells. The well and stream elevations are shown in figure 2-1. Construction details for all the wells shown in table 2-1 are from the CWST data that is maintained by the USGS. Water levels were measured with respect to land surface at each measuring site; then the elevation of the land surface was used to determine the water-level altitudes with respect to sea level. Where measurements were not made, elevations of streams, lakes, and wetlands (which represent the water table above land surface) estimated from USGS 1/12-mile topographic maps provided supplementary water-table altitude data.

**Water-Level Monitoring**

Water levels in five water-table observation wells in the Salem River study area are monitored on a regular basis (fig. 2-2). Water levels in two of the wells have been monitored for less than 7 years; those in the

other three wells have been monitored for at least 27 years. Water levels were measured manually from 1 to 12 times per year. The water-level data are shown in hydrographs in figures 2-3 through 2-5. The vertical and horizontal scales on all the hydrographs are identical to facilitate visual comparison. Construction data for all the wells are listed in table 2-1.

Water levels in the Penns Grove 72 well (33-116) fluctuate from 3.5 to 5.5 ft seasonally (fig. 2-3). Water levels typically are highest during late winter and spring and lowest during fall. Because evapotranspiration in New Jersey is high during summer and low in the late fall through early spring, whereas precipitation is nearly constant throughout the year, the water table naturally declines from spring to fall because much of the water from precipitation is lost from the soil through evapotranspiration rather than percolating down to the water table. From fall to spring, water levels naturally rise because when evapotranspiration is low the soil water derived from precipitation can percolate down to the water table. The typical seasonal fluctuations in water levels in the Aura Orchards well (15-726) and the Shoemaker 1 well (15-811) are 4 to 6 and 2 to 4 ft, respectively (fig. 2-4). Both the Penns Grove 14 (33-348) and the Penns Grove 24 (33-342) wells are screened in the Upper Potomac-Raritan Magogy aquifer. The water levels in the former well (fig. 2-5) show a typical annual seasonal fluctuation of 3 to 6 ft, whereas those in the latter well show a large seasonal fluctuation of 2 to 9 ft that can be explained by a combination of seasonal withdrawals near the observation well and natural seasonal fluctuations. The hydrographs show some periods of similar trends in water levels among Penns Grove wells 14, 24, and 72. A period of decreasing high and low water levels during water years\* 1961-66 is evident, as well as a period of relatively high seasonal low during water years 1967-68.

\*Water year, typically used in hydrologic analyses, is the 12-month period from October 1 through September 30. It is designated by the calendar year in which it ends. In this report, all data are reported for the calendar year indicated unless otherwise noted.

**Hydraulic Properties of Aquifers and Confining Units**

Hydraulic properties of the aquifers and confining units in and near the Salem River study area were compiled from documents and results of aquifer and laboratory tests. Many of the test results are from semi-confined or confined portions of aquifers in the study area; these are used because test results are available from unconfined portions of these aquifers. The parameters typically reported from these analyses are transmissivity, hydraulic conductivity, and storage coefficient. Test locations are shown in figure 2-2, and test results are reported in tables 2-3 and 2-4.

Reported values of the horizontal hydraulic conductivity of aquifers in and near the Salem River study area range from 5 to 250 ft/d. Reported transmissivities (aquifer thickness multiplied by hydraulic conductivity) in and near the study area range from 411 to 19,800 ft<sup>2</sup>/d. The values are within the range of typical values for the lithologies of the aquifers in the study area. Storage coefficient is a dimensionless value that represents the volume of water an aquifer will release per unit surface area per unit decrease in water level. Reported storage coefficients for aquifers in and near the study area range from 0.00027 to 0.044. However, the typical storage coefficients for unconfined aquifers (0.1 to 0.3) (Frazee and Charney, 1979, p. 61) are considerably different from most of those reported for aquifers in and near the study area. This can be explained by the fact that most of the tests reported were performed in confined or semi-confined parts of the aquifer. Even the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer system, which is considered an unconfined aquifer, appears to behave as a semi-confined aquifer during aquifer tests. This behavior is probably a function of the presence of discontinuous layers of silt and clay in the Cohansey Formation. Values of vertical hydraulic conductivity of the confining units are derived mostly from results of laboratory tests and range from 0.00002 to 0.24 ft/d, the typical range for the lithologies of the confining units in the study area.

Table 2-1. Well construction data for 122 water-level measuring wells in unconfined aquifers in the Salem River study area, New Jersey, October and November 1993, exact values rounded (Well locations shown in fig. 2-1; missing data indicate that elevations of water levels are rounded to the nearest whole number)

New Jersey number	Latitude	Longitude	Owner	Local well name	Elevation of land surface (feet above sea level)	Depth of well (feet below land surface)	Screened interval (feet below land surface)	Date water level measured	Water level (feet above sea level)	Altitude of water level (feet above sea level)
11-716	39.2554	075.1996	MAHNEY, ROBERT	FITHIAN HAND DUG	11	30	40.0	11-09-93	27.28	64
11-717	39.2554	075.1996	FITHIAN, HERBERT	FITHIAN HAND DUG	11	30	40.0	11-09-93	27.28	64
11-720	39.2713	075.2132	LEVICK, EVERED	LEVICK HAND DUG	75	31.6	43.4	11-17-93	31.40	43
11-721	39.2713	075.2132	LEVICK, EVERED	LEVICK HAND DUG	165.65	60	105.65	11-17-93	105.65	81
11-722	39.2713	075.2132	STOW CREEK TWP	SCVPM MW 2	95.30	60	35.30	11-16-93	37.41	58
11-723	39.2713	075.2132	STOW CREEK TWP	SCVPM MW 3	95.30	60	35.30	11-16-93	37.41	58
11-724	39.2713	075.2132	STOW CREEK TWP	SCVPM MW 4	95.30	60	35.30	11-16-93	37.41	58
11-725	39.2668	075.2167	DAVIS, FRANK	SCVPM CONNEXION BARN 1	127	67	60	11-17-93	47.05	80
11-726	39.2668	075.2167	DAVIS, FRANK	SCVPM CONNEXION BARN 1	130	60	70	11-17-93	47.05	83
15-35	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-36	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-37	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-38	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-39	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-40	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-41	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-42	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-43	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-44	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-45	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-46	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-47	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-48	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-49	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-50	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-51	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-52	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-53	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-54	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-55	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-56	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-57	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-58	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-59	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-60	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-61	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-62	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-63	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-64	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-65	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-66	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-67	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-68	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-69	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-70	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-71	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-72	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-73	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-74	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-75	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-76	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-77	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-78	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-79	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-80	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-81	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-82	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-83	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-84	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-85	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-86	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-87	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-88	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-89	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-90	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-91	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-92	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-93	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-94	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-95	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-96	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-97	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-98	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-99	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-100	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-101	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-93	12.18	128
15-102	39.4022	075.0062	HUGHES, WILSON J	2	140	60.0	26.0	11-12-9		