

GROUND WATER

This sheet describes water levels in the unconfined aquifer system of the Maurice River study area. Hydrographs of water levels in 22 water-table observation wells are shown. A water-level map prepared from water levels measured in April and May 1995 is presented.

Water-Level Monitoring

Hydrographs of water levels in 22 water-table observation wells in the Maurice River study area are shown in figures 2-1, 2-2, and 2-3. Water levels in these wells typically are measured manually from 1 to 12 times per year. Construction dates for these wells are indicated in table 2-1.

None of the water levels in wells in figure 2-1 or 2-2 shows an apparent upward or downward long-term trend. Water levels in wells 11-42, 11-43, 11-141, 11-162, and 11-227 (fig. 2-1) are all the wells in figure 2-1 that have about 3.0 to 3.5 ft of recharge area that are far from discharge areas (streams, lakes, or wetlands) and, therefore, the water-level changes are primarily a result of seasonal changes in recharge rates. Water levels typically are highest during late winter and spring and lowest during fall. Because evapotranspiration in New Jersey during summer and low in the fall but through early spring, whereas precipitation is nearly constant throughout the year, the water table naturally declines from spring to fall because most 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 evapotranspiration is low, allowing the soil water derived from precipitation to percolate down to the water table. In contrast, seasonal water-level fluctuations in the other five wells shown in figure 2-1 (11-43, 11-73, 11-118, 11-119, and 11-188) typically are less than 1 to 2 ft by because they are near discharge areas. Water levels in these wells show little seasonal fluctuation because they are controlled largely by the relatively constant water levels in the nearby streams and lake (discharge areas).

Figure 2-3 shows that water levels are slightly lower in the deep part of the Kirkwood-Coahansy aquifer system than in the shallow part. This indicates that, at least in the vicinity of wells 11-692 and 11-694, flow in the Kirkwood-Coahansy aquifer system has a downward component.

Water-Level Map

The water-table contour map (fig. 2-4) is based on water-level measurements made in 231 wells (table 2-1) and 304 streams (table 2-2) in April and May 1995. Construction details for all of the wells shown in figure 2-4 are from the Ground Water Site Inventory Database, which is maintained by the USGS. Water levels in wells about 150 ft deep or more and wells drilled through a large thickness of all clay were not used in order to avoid water levels that might represent confined or semi-confined conditions. Water levels were measured with respect to local or nearest datum (the elevation of the land surface was used to determine the water-level altitude with respect to sea level). The most accurate measurements were those made in wells where measurements were not made, elevations of streams, lakes, and wetlands (which represent the water table or at above land surface) estimated from USGS 1:25,000 topographic maps provided supplementary water-table altitudes data.

Under natural conditions, water in unconfined aquifers generally flows from high land areas toward points in low-lying areas, such as wetlands, rivers, streams, and springs. The overall configuration of the water table can be a subtle 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 with ground water flowing into it along most of its length), the "V" points upstream, indicating that nearby ground water is higher than the water in the stream channel; therefore, ground water is flowing into the stream. The stream in the study area are principally gaining streams whose flow increases with distance downstream.

The water-table map (fig. 2-4) shows the configuration of the water table based on measurements made in April and May 1995 (table 2-1 and 2-2). Water levels measured in elevated (recharge) areas could be as much as 8 ft lower than typical because the measurements were made following a winter and spring of below-normal precipitation. Except for local differences, however, it is unlikely that the overall shape and inferred directions of ground-water flow based on a water-level map for this dry period differ substantially from a wet or average period. The effect of this dry period on the water levels, particularly in recharge areas, is shown by the hydrographs for wells 15-745, 15-763, 15-784, and 15-810 (fig. 2-2). The water levels during spring 1995, about at about the middle of the flow-based on the hydrographs, are similar to the lowest water levels recorded since flow records began in 1988. The lowering of water levels caused by this dry period is less dramatic in wells near discharge areas or at lower elevations (fig. 2-1) than in wells in recharge areas.

The altitude of the water table ranged from sea level in the southern part of the study area to about 140 ft above sea level in the northern part. The slope of the water table in the Coahansy River Basin (western part of the study area) is considerably steeper than that in the Maurice River Basin (eastern part of the study area), in part because the Coahansy River drainage basin has a much larger discharge than the Maurice River drainage basin. The shape of the water table that results from local ground-water withdrawals and local variations in the permeability of geologic materials cannot be shown clearly at the 1:100,000 scale of the water-table map (fig. 2-4).

2. Water year, typically used in hydrologic analysis, 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.

Table 2-1. Well-construction data for 22 water levels measured in wells in recorded aquifers in the Maurice River study area, New Jersey, February through May 1995
(Well locations shown in figs. 2-1, 2-2, USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; -missing data; altitudes of water levels are rounded to the nearest whole number)

USGS well number	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation of well (feet above sea level)	Depth of well (feet below land surface)	Screened interval (feet below land surface)	Date measured	Water level (feet above sea level)	Altitude of well (feet above sea level)
1-44	39.024	74.048	86	33	53	4/25/95	53	33
1-125	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-126	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-127	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-128	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-129	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-130	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-131	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-132	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-133	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-134	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-135	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-136	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-137	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-138	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-139	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-140	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-141	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-142	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-143	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-144	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-145	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-146	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-147	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-148	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-149	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-150	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-151	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-152	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-153	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-154	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-155	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-156	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-157	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-158	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-159	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-160	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-161	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-162	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-163	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-164	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-165	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-166	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-167	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-168	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-169	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-170	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-171	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-172	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-173	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-174	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-175	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-176	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-177	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-178	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-179	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-180	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-181	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-182	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-183	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-184	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-185	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-186	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-187	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-188	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-189	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-190	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-191	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-192	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-193	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-194	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-195	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-196	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-197	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-198	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-199	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-200	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-201	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-202	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-203	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-204	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-205	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-206	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-207	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-208	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-209	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-210	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-211	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-212	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-213	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-214	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-215	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-216	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-217	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-218	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-219	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-220	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-221	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-222	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-223	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-224	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-225	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-226	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-227	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-228	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-229	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-230	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-231	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-232	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-233	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-234	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-235	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-236	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-237	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-238	39.011	74.031	93.33	41	52	4/29/95	52	41
1-239	39.011							