

Surface Water Supply of the United States 1955

Part 1-B. North Atlantic Slope Basins, New York to York River

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WATER-SUPPLY PAPER 1382

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of Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts,
New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania,
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and with other agencies*





A. Otselic River at Upper Lisle, N. Y.



B. Clark Creek near Carsonville, Pa.



C. Mattaponi River near Bowling Green, Va.

FIGURE 1.—GAGING-STATION STRUCTURES

At some gaging stations the stage-discharge relation is affected by backwater from reservoirs, tributary streams, or other sources. This necessitates the use of the slope method in which the slope or fall in a reach of the stream is a factor in determining discharge. Information requisite for determining the slope or fall is obtained by means of an auxiliary gage set at some distance from the base gage. At some stations the stage-discharge relation is affected by changing stage. If so, the rate of change in stage is used as a factor in the determination of discharge.

At most gaging stations in the northern part of the United States and at some in the mountainous regions of other parts the stage-discharge relation is affected by ice during the winter, and it becomes impossible to compute the discharge in the usual manner. Discharge for periods of ice effect is computed on the basis of the gage-height record and occasional winter discharge measurements, consideration being given to the available information on temperature and precipitation, notes by gage observers and engineers, and comparable records of discharge for other stations in the same or nearby basins. If the stage-discharge relation is affected by ice, this information is given in a note to the table. No mention is made of occasional days of ice effect if the degree of accuracy of daily records is not changed.

The data herein presented generally comprise a description of the station, a skeleton rating table, and a table showing the daily discharge and monthly and yearly discharge and runoff of the stream. Records are published for the water year which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. A calendar for the water year 1955 is shown on page IV for the purpose of finding the day of the week for any date.

The description of the station gives the location, drainage area, records available, type and history of gages, average discharge, extremes of discharge, general remarks, and notations of revisions of the previously published record. The location of the gaging station and the drainage area are obtained from the most accurate maps available. River mileage, given under "Location" for some stations, is that determined and used by the Corps of Engineers unless otherwise noted. Under "Records available" are given the periods for which there are published records generally equivalent to those at the present site. Under "Gage" are given the type of gage currently in use and the datum of the present gage above mean sea level, and a condensed history of the types, locations, and datums of previous gages used during the period of records available. Under "Average discharge" is given the average discharge for the number of years indicated. It is not given for stations having fewer than five complete years of record or for stations where changes in water development during the period of record cause the figure to have little significance. Under "Extremes" are given the maximum discharge and gage height; the minimum discharge if there is little or no regulation; the minimum daily discharge if there is extensive regulation (also the minimum discharge if useful); and the minimum gage height (unless it is of no importance). In the first paragraph, the data given are for the complete current water year unless otherwise specified. In the second paragraph, the data given are for the periods of record within the calendar year dates in the heading (not necessarily those for the complete years indicated by the heading dates). Reliable information concerning major floods that have occurred outside the period of record are given in the third or last paragraph under "Extremes." Unless otherwise qualified, the maximum discharge corresponds to the crest stage obtained by use of a water-stage recorder, a crest-stage indicator, or a nonrecording gage read at the time of the crest. If the

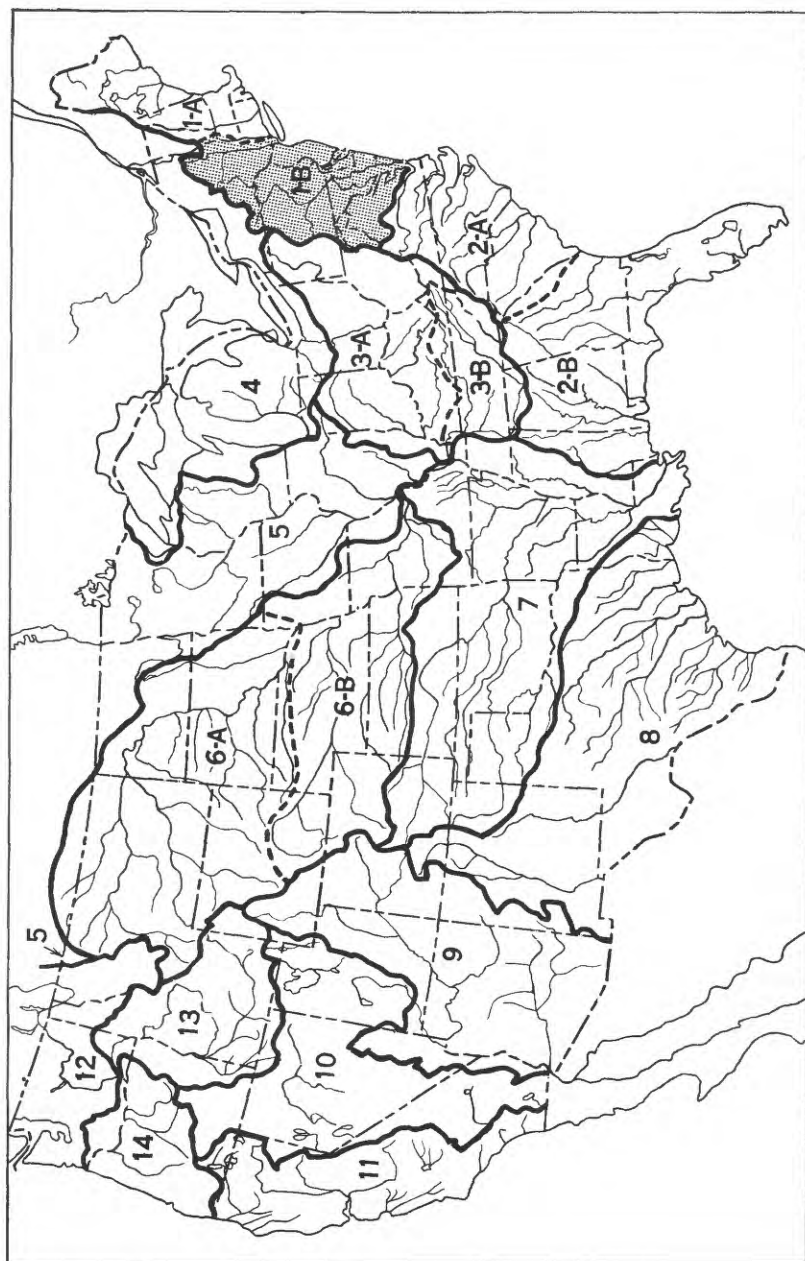


Figure 2.--Map of the United States showing areas covered by the 18 annual volumes on surface-water supply. The area covered by this report is shaded.

Reports containing compilations of records of discharge by States and drainage basins

WSP	Period	Report
109.....	1890-1904	Hydrography of Susquehanna River basin (Pa., Md.).
192.....	1895-1906	The Potomac River basin (D. C., Md., W. Va.).
1105.....	1863-1945	Hydrology of Massachusetts, Part 1, Summary of streamflow and precipitation records.

Records of discharge have been published also in State reports. Some of these are not contained in the publications of the Geological Survey or are revisions of records previously published in its water-supply papers. The following table contains a list of these reports for the area covered by this report.

State reports containing compilations of records of discharge

State	Period	Report	Issued by
Maryland.....	1929-37	Flow data and draft storage curves for major streams in Maryland.	State Planning Commission and Water Resources Commission.
Do.....	1892-1943	Bull. 1, Summary of records of surface waters of Maryland and the Potomac River basin.	Department of Geology, Mines, and Water Resources.
Do.....	1931-48	Bull. 5, Anne Arundel County water resources.	Do.
Do.....	1944-49	Physical features of Washington County...	Do.
Do.....	1896-1950	Bull. 10, Prince Georges County water resources.	Do.
Do.....	1946-51	Bull. 11, St. Marys County water resources.	Do.
Do.....	1898-1952	Bull. 13, Geology and water resources of Garrett County.	Do.
Do.....	1886-1952	Bull. 14, The water resources of Howard and Montgomery Counties.	Do.
Do.....	1929-53	Bull. 16, The water resources of Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties.	Do.
Do.....	1897-54	Bull. 17, The water resources of Baltimore and Hartford Counties.	Do.
Do.....	1943-55	Bull. 18, The water resources of Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties.	Do.
New Jersey....	1892-1928	Bull. 33, Surface water supply of New Jersey.	Department of Conservation and Development.
Do.....	1928-34	Special Rept. 5, Surface water supply of New Jersey.	State Water Policy Commission.
Do.....	1934-40	Special Rept. 9, Surface water supply of New Jersey.	Do.
Do.....	1940-45	Special Rept. 12, Surface water supply of New Jersey.	Department of Conservation and Economic Development.
Pennsylvania..	1890-1911	Report of Water Supply Commission of Pennsylvania.	Water Supply Commission of Pennsylvania.
Do.....	1928-32	Streamflow records of Pennsylvania.....	Department of Forests and Waters.
Virginia.....	1895-1927	Bull. 31, Water resources of Virginia....	Virginia Geological Survey.
Do.....	1927-42	Bull. 4, Surface water supply of Virginia (Potomac, Rappahannock, and York River basins).	Virginia Conservation Commission.
Do.....	1942-50	Bull. 12, Surface water supply of Virginia (Potomac, Rappahannock, and York River basins).	Department of Conservation and Development.
Do.....	1951-55	Bull. 16, Surface water supply of Virginia (Potomac, Rappahannock, and York River basins).	Do.

Note.--In addition to the records contained in the reports listed above, the following States have issued annual or biennial reports in which are contained records of discharge: New York (also Board of Water Supply, city of New York, and city of Rochester) and Pennsylvania.

The reports listed in the foregoing tables contain the customary records of discharge collected during the systematic operation of gaging stations. Detailed information on the stage and discharge of many streams during major floods has been included in special reports on these floods published by the Geological Survey or other agencies. The more recent of these special reports also contain other pertinent hydrologic information and analyses and compilations of data relating to earlier notable floods. The following is a list of these reports:

Report	Issued by
WSP 88: The Passaic flood of 1902.	U. S. Geological Survey
WSP 92: The Passaic flood of 1903.	Do.
WSP 147: Destructive floods in the United States in 1904.	Do.
WSP 162: Destructive floods in the United States in 1905.	Do.
WSP 771: Floods in the United States, magnitude and frequency.	Do.
WSP 773-E: The New York State flood of July 1935.	Do.
WSP 799: The floods of 1936, Part 2, Hudson River to Susquehanna River region.	Do.
WSP 800: The floods of 1936, Part 3, Potomac, James, and upper Ohio Rivers.	Do.
WSP 847: Maximum discharges at stream-measurement stations through September 1938.	Do.
WSP 966: Minor floods of 1938 in North Atlantic States.	Do.

