

QUALITY OF SURFACE WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1958

PARTS 1-4

INTRODUCTION

The quality-of-water investigations of the United States Geological Survey are concerned with chemical and physical characteristics of the surface and ground water supplies of the Nation. Most of the investigations carried on in cooperation with State and Federal agencies deal with the amounts of matter in solution and in suspension in streams.

The records of chemical analysis, suspended sediment, and temperature for surface waters given in this volume serve as a basis for determining the suitability of the waters examined for all uses. The discharge of a stream and (to a lesser extent) the chemical quality are related to variations in rainfall and other forms of precipitation. In general, lower concentrations of dissolved solids may be expected during the periods of high flow than during periods of low flow. The concentration in some streams may change materially with relatively small variations in flow, whereas for other streams the quality may remain relatively uniform throughout large ranges in discharge. The quantities of suspended sediment carried by streams are also related to discharge, and during flood periods the sediment content in streams may vary over wide ranges.

The Geological Survey began publishing annual records of chemical quality, suspended sediment, and water temperature in 1941. The records prior to 1948 were published each year in a single volume for the entire country. Beginning in 1948, the records were published in two volumes, and beginning in 1950, in four volumes, covering the drainage basins shown in Figure 1. The data given in this volume were collected during the water year October 1, 1957 to September 30, 1958.

The records are arranged by drainage basins in downstream order according to the Geological Survey method of reporting streamflow.

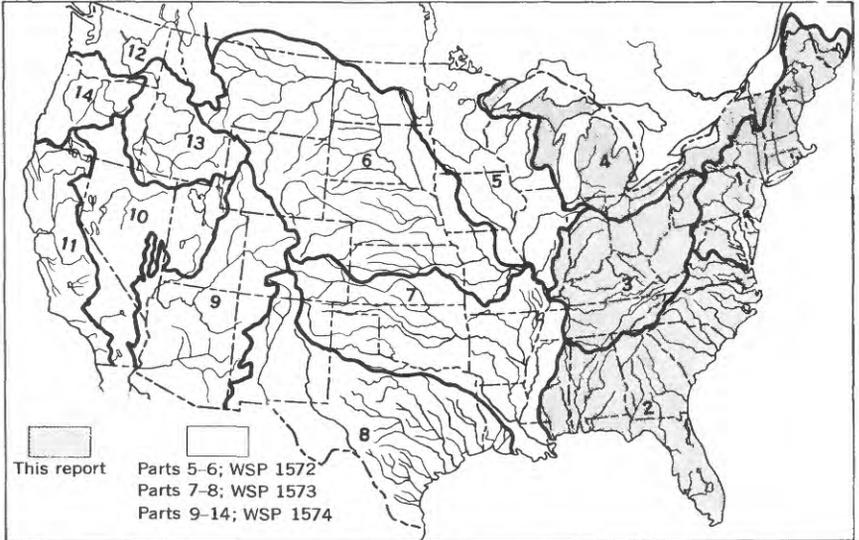


Figure 1. --Map of the United States showing basins covered by the four water-supply papers on quality of surface waters in 1958. The shaded portion represents the section of the country covered by this volume; the unshaded portion represents the section of the country covered by other water-supply papers.

Stations on tributary streams are listed between stations on the main stem in the order in which those tributaries enter the main stem.

A station number has been assigned as an added means of identification for each stream location where regular measurements of water quantity or quality have been made. The numbers have been assigned to conform with the standard downstream order of listing gaging stations. The numbering system consists of two digits followed by a hyphen and a six digit number. The notation to the left of the hyphen identifies the Part or hydrologic region used by the Geological Survey for reporting hydrologic data. The number to the right of the hyphen represents the position of the location in the standard downstream order listing measuring stations within each of the 14 parts. The assigned numbers are in numerical order but are not consecutive. They are so selected from the complete 6 digit number scale that intervening numbers will be available for future assignments to new locations. The identification number for each station in this report is printed to the left of the station name and contains only the essential digits. For example, the number is printed as 4-100 for a station whose complete identification number is 04-0100.00.

