

S FORM E-5

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

HSA OFFICE:LOT

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR May 2004

TO: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL INFO CENTER
W/OH12X1
1325 EAST-WEST HIGHWAY, #7128
SILVER SPRING, MD 20910

DATE: Aug 11, 2004

SIGNATURE William D. Morris

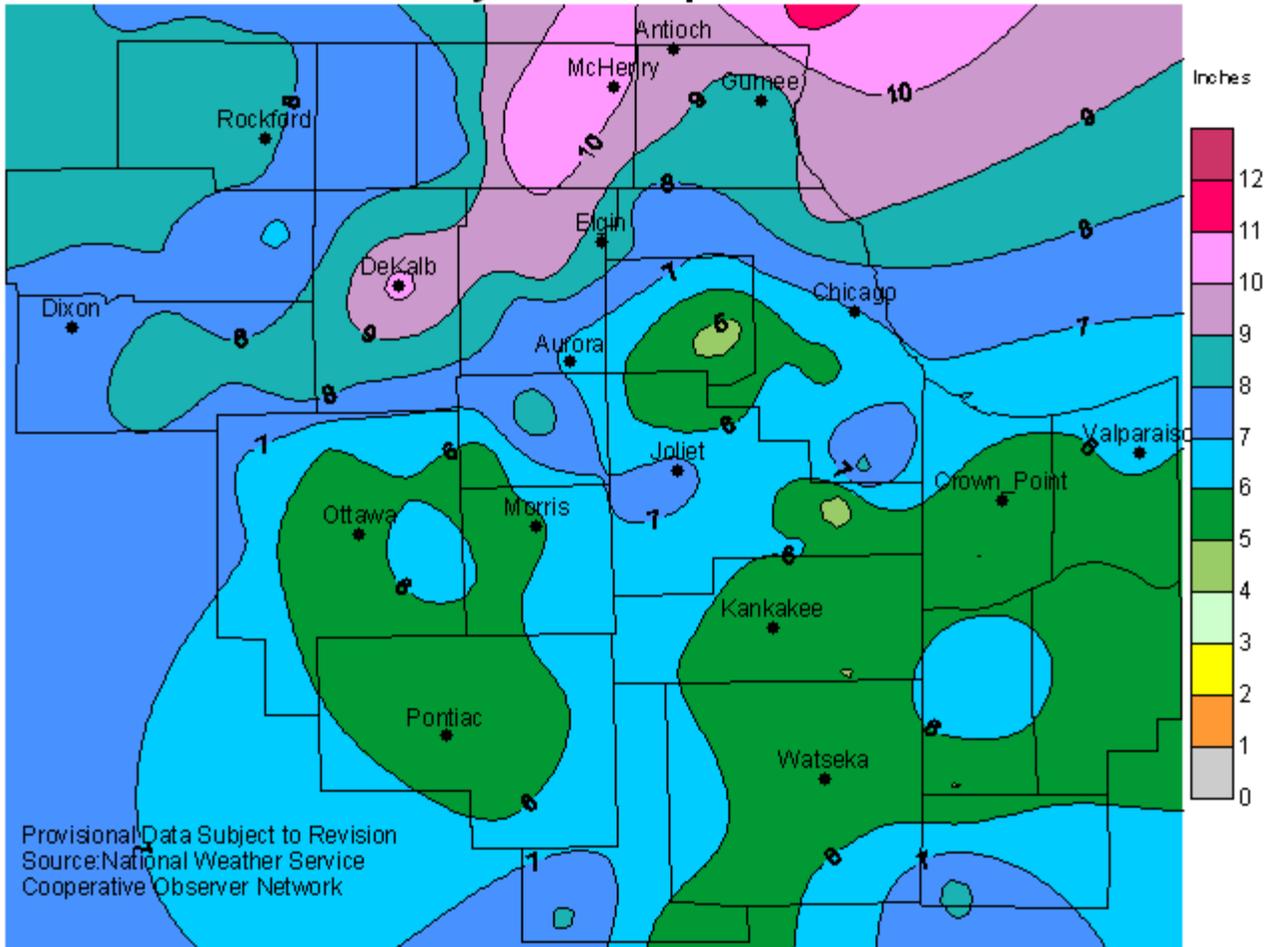
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (WSOM E-41).

Record to near record flooding occurred over portions of Northeast Illinois during the month. A fairly stagnant weather pattern during the month allowed several weak cold fronts to move across portions of Southern Wisconsin and far Northeastern Illinois. Waves of heavy rainfall over portions of Southern Wisconsin and Northeast Illinois resulted in near record to record flooding along the Upper Des Plaines and Fox River watersheds. Precipitation was well above average over Northern Illinois and Northwest Indiana. Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich declared Wheeling, Leyden, Maine, Lyons, Northfield and Proviso townships in Cook County and all of Lake County Illinois state disaster areas.

Precipitation:

Average rainfall over Northeast Illinois was around 200 percent of normal. However, several NWS cooperative observing locations in the Upper Des Plaines and Fox river watershed reported monthly rainfall totals of between 10 and 13 inches. Some locations in the Upper Des Plaines and Fox watersheds in Southern Wisconsin received around 40 percent of their annual precipitation in only 30 days. These successive waves of heavy rainfall brought the Des Plaines and Fox rivers to flood stage by the middle of the month. The heaviest rainfall amounts in Illinois were located over portions of McHenry, and Lake Counties in Illinois with isolated in very heavy rain falling over portions of DeKalb and Kane counties.

May 2004 Precipitation



Des Plaines River

Heavy rainfall and resultant runoff from the headwaters of the Des Plaines River in Kenosha County brought the Des Plaines River to flood stage from Russell to Gurnee on May 18th. The river reached a new record crest of 11.05 feet on May 24th surpassing the previous record of 10.75 feet in March of 1976. Further downstream at Gurnee the river crested slightly below the previous record at 11.68 feet on May 25th inundating a large part of the city and surrounding area. At Des Plaines, IL the river crested 3.5 feet above flood stage and down at Riverside the river crested around 1 foot above flood stage.

Floodwaters inundated large areas in Lake County Illinois. The area along the Des Plaines River from Russell down to Gurnee suffered the worst flood problems. Floodwaters inundated large areas of low lying farmland near Russell and surrounded some houses as well. Some residents were evacuated from their home in Russell as flood waters continued to rise. Some 40 homes and 20 businesses were affected by high water in Gurnee with 35 homes evacuated. According to reports, both Warren Twp High School campuses were closed as were all Gurnee grade schools. Floodwaters surrounded Viking School and Gurnee Grade School during the peak of the flooding but sandbagging efforts helped to prevent any major flood damage. Two water treatment plants were threatened but not directly impacted by flood waters. Many major roads were impacted by flooding and at one time only 4 east-west roads were open from the Wisconsin state line down to Gurnee. Some of the major roads affected by the flood included Route 120, Route 41, Grand Avenue, Old Grand Avenue, O'Plaine Road, and Route 173 along with many secondary roads and streets. Some 100 sailors from the Great Lakes Naval Station helped in flood fighting activities in Gurnee.

Further downstream in the Des Plaines area local officials erected a six block concrete barrier along River Road in anticipation of flooding. Flooding in the Des Plaines area affected roads, streets, and some garages. Portions of Golf and Central roads were closed during the height of the flood. Some of the most significant flooding in the Des Plaines area occurred along Big Bend Drive near the river. In Libertyville, just a few homes were affected by high water near Rockland Road. The Des Plaines River Methodist campground was inundated from the swollen river. Only minor flooding of some park areas was reported downstream in Riverside.



*Gurnee, IL during the peak of the flooding.
Courtesy Lake County IL Stormwater Management Commission*

Fox River

The heavy rainfall pattern that affected the upper Des Plaines River watershed also affected the Upper Fox River watershed. Flooding along the Chain O' Lakes area in Lake County Illinois affected 50 homes in a dozen subdivisions. Total flooding in the Fox Lake area was reported to have affected 100 homes and businesses. Many roads and streets were closed due to high water as well. High water on the Fox River and Chain O' Lakes area also severely impacted recreational boating in the area. The Fox waterway system was closed to boat traffic during what is normally the peak of the recreational boating season.

Rock River Basin

Flooding also occurred along portions of the Rock, Pecatonica, and Kishwaukee Rivers in North Central Illinois. Portions of the South Branch Kishwaukee River in DeKalb inundated low lying parks and some yards near the river. In Boone County, the Kishwaukee inundated portions of Belvidere Park. On the Rock River, water levels rose above flood stage in Rockton by month's end and crested in early June. Flood waters inundated low lying areas around Roscoe.

Flash Flooding

Several localized heavy rainfall events occurred during the month. One of the most significant flash floods during May occurred on May 30th. Heavy rainfall over portions of southern Cook County resulted in flash flooding in the community of Robbins. Six homeowners were displaced as a result of the flash flooding when floodwaters from a nearby creek overflowed into yards and homes.



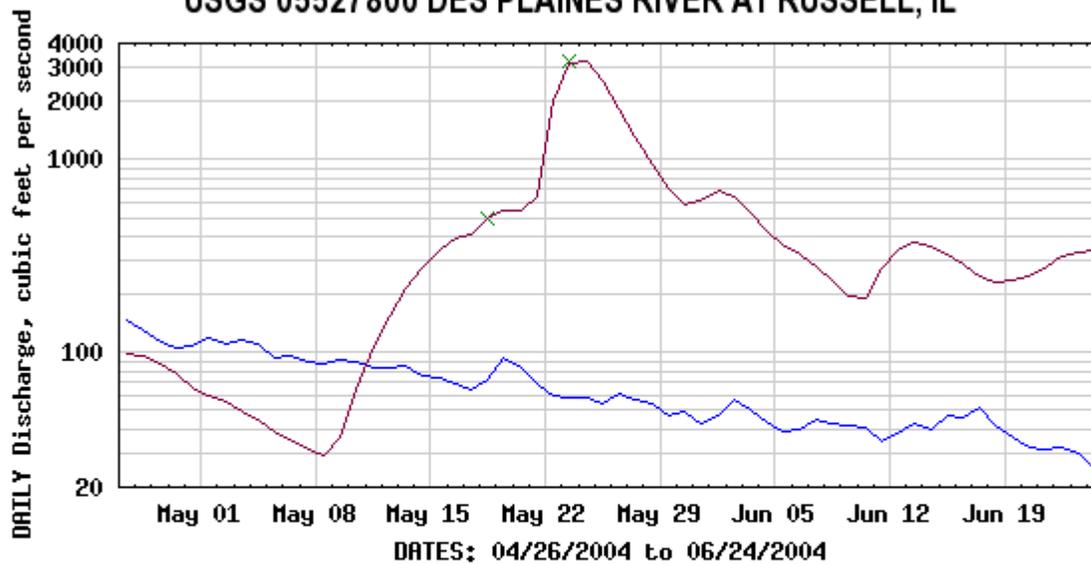
*Lake County Illinois during the peak of the flooding.
Courtesy Lake County IL Stormwater Management Commission*

Flood Products issued this month:	
ESF Hydrologic Outlook	4
FFA Flood Watch	7
FFW Flash Flood Warning	41
FLS Flood statement	97
FLW Flood Warning	6

Flood Hydrographs courtesy U.S Geological Survey



USGS 05527800 DES PLAINES RIVER AT RUSSELL, IL



EXPLANATION

- MEDIAN DAILY STREAMFLOW BASED ON 36 YEARS OF RECORD
- × MEASURED Discharge
- DAILY MEAN DISCHARGE

Provisional Data Subject to Revision



USGS 05528000 DES PLAINES RIVER NEAR GURNEE, IL



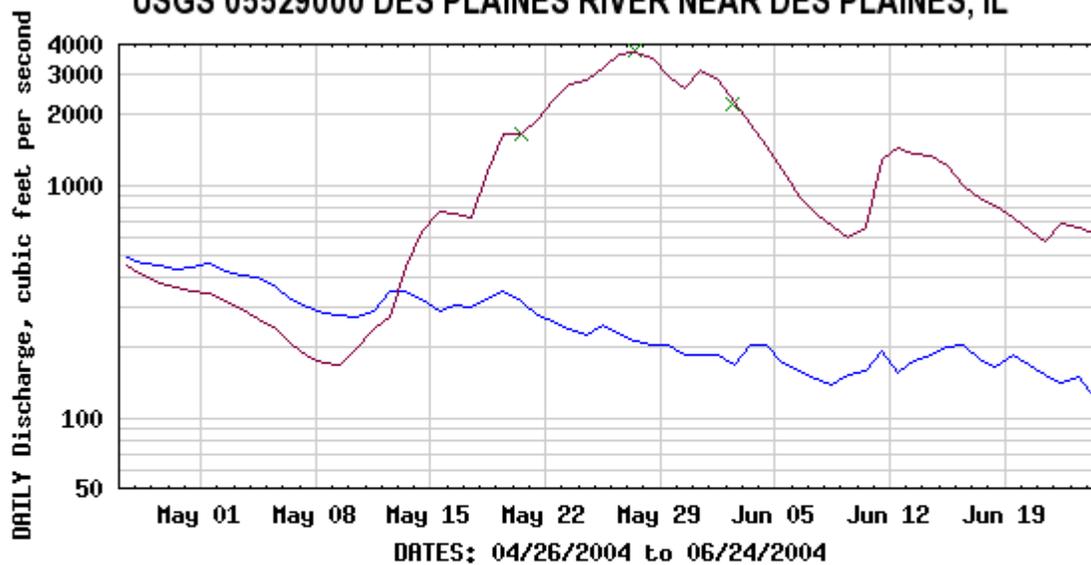
EXPLANATION

- MEDIAN DAILY STREAMFLOW BASED ON 48 YEARS OF RECORD
- × MEASURED Discharge
- DAILY MEAN DISCHARGE

Provisional Data Subject to Revision



USGS 05529000 DES PLAINES RIVER NEAR DES PLAINES, IL



EXPLANATION

- MEDIAN DAILY STREAMFLOW BASED ON 63 YEARS OF RECORD
- × MEASURED Discharge
- DAILY MEAN DISCHARGE

Provisional Data Subject to Revision



USGS 05532500 DES PLAINES RIVER AT RIVERSIDE, IL



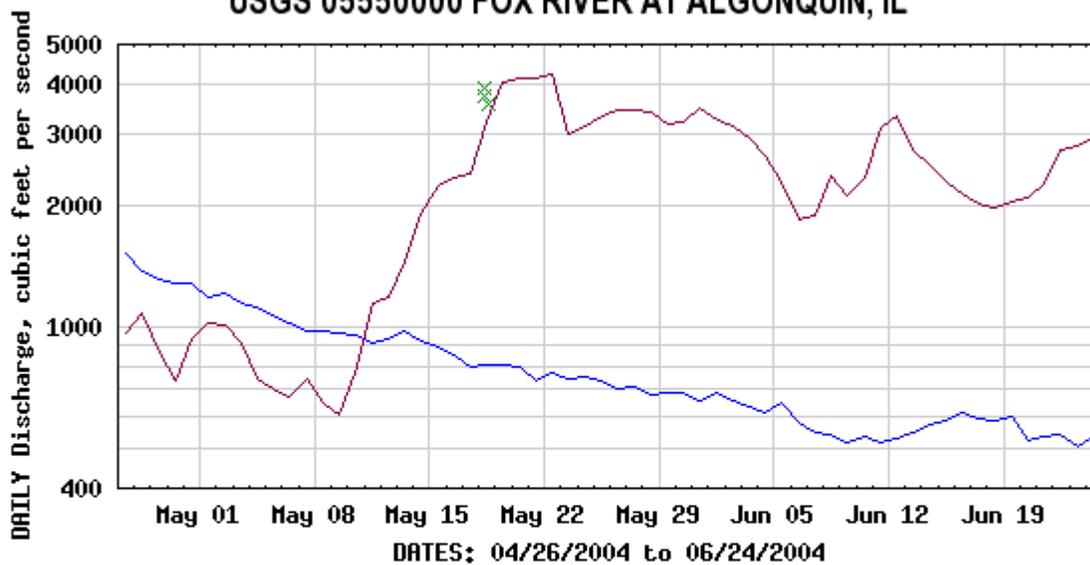
EXPLANATION

- MEDIAN DAILY STREAMFLOW BASED ON 60 YEARS OF RECORD
- × MEASURED Discharge
- DAILY MEAN DISCHARGE

Provisional Data Subject to Revision



USGS 05550000 FOX RIVER AT ALGONQUIN, IL



EXPLANATION

- MEDIAN DAILY STREAMFLOW BASED ON 88 YEARS OF RECORD
- × MEASURED Discharge
- DAILY MEAN DISCHARGE

Provisional Data Subject to Revision