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PROBABILISTIC HYDROLOGIC OUTLOOK
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHICAGO/ROMEDEVILLE IL
510 PM CST THU FEB 18 2016

...2016 SPRING FLOOD AND WATER OUTLOOK NUMBER 1...

THIS OUTLOOK IS FOR STREAMS WITHIN THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHICAGO HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA...WHICH INCLUDES ILLINOIS RIVER TRIBUTARIES IN NORTHEAST ILLINOIS AND NORTHWEST INDIANA. IT INCLUDES THE ILLINOIS RIVER DOWN TO LA SALLE. IT ALSO INCLUDES STREAMS WITHIN THE ROCK RIVER BASIN IN NORTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS AND THE ROCK RIVER FROM ROCKTON DOWN TO DIXON ILLINOIS. THIS OUTLOOK IS FOR THE TIME PERIOD FROM LATE FEBRUARY THROUGH LATE MAY.

..OUTLOOK BRIEF SUMMARY...

BASED ON CURRENT CONDITIONS...THE RISK OF FLOODING THIS SPRING RANGES FROM NEAR NORMAL TO NORMAL. THE AMOUNT OF RAINFALL OR ADDITIONAL SNOW AND SUBSEQUENT SNOWMELT IN THE COMING WEEKS WILL DETERMINE THE SEVERITY OF ANY FUTURE FLOODING.

ICE JAMS AND ICE JAM FLOODING REMAIN POSSIBLE ICE JAMS CAN RESULT IN RAPID RISES IN WATER LEVELS IN A VERY SHORT TIME.

THIS SPRING OUTLOOK IS BASED ON HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS INCLUDING THE CURRENT SOIL MOISTURE...SNOWPACK...AND STREAMFLOW CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF ISSUANCE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS CAN CHANGE RAPIDLY DURING LATE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING. THESE OUTLOOKS ARE ISSUED EACH LATE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING IN ADDITION TO THE 7 DAY RIVER FORECASTS THAT ARE ISSUED WHEN RIVER FORECAST LOCATIONS ARE IN FLOOD OR ARE FORECAST TO RISE ABOVE FLOOD STAGE.

...CURRENT SNOW COVER AND WATER EQUIVALENT...

AS OF FEBRUARY 18TH...SNOW DEPTHS AVERAGED BETWEEN 1 AND 4 INCHES WITH THE DEEPER SNOWPACK NEAR THE WISCONSIN STATE LINE. WATER EQUIVALENT OF THE SNOWPACK WAS GENERALLY LESS THAN 0.5 INCH.

...PAST TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION...

FALL OF 2015 CONCLUDED WITH ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES. PRECIPITATION THIS PAST FALL OVER MOST OF NORTHEAST AND NORTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS WAS ABOVE NORMAL. IN EARLY FALL...THERE WAS AN EXTENDED DRY PERIOD FROM MID SEPTEMBER TO THE END OF OCTOBER. NOVEMBER HOWEVER EXPERIENCED WELL ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION. SOME LOCATIONS EXPERIENCED 200 PERCENT OF NORMAL IN NOVEMBER. DUE TO THE DRY START OF FALL 2015...SOME LOCATIONS IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS WERE CONSIDERED ABNORMALLY DRY BY THE END OF OCTOBER. HOWEVER...SOIL MOISTURE WAS QUICKLY REPLENISHED AFTER HEAVY PRECIPITATION DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER. WINTER PRECIPITATION WAS HEAVY IN LATE DECEMBER WHEN HEAVY RAIN FELL ACROSS THE AREA AND RESULTED IN WIDESPREAD FLOODING. THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE PRECIPITATION FOR DECEMBER WAS 6.70 INCHES...WHICH WAS 4.01 INCHES ABOVE AVERAGE.

...SOIL MOISTURE AND FROST DEPTH...

:LITTLE CALUMET RIVER									
MUNSTER	12.0	14.0	17.0	:	31	35	14	18	<5 <5
SOUTH HOLLAND	16.5	18.0	20.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5 <5
:KANKAKEE RIVER									
DUNNS BRIDGE	10.0	12.0	13.0	:	23	35	<5	7	<5 5
KOUTS	11.0	13.0	14.0	:	27	36	<5	7	<5 6
SHELBY	9.0	11.0	12.5	:	81	83	33	40	14 17
MOMENCE	5.0	6.5	9.0	:	30	34	11	13	<5 <5
:IROQUOIS RIVER									
RENSSELAER	12.0	14.0	15.0	:	28	37	8	12	7 10
FORESMAN	18.0	22.0	24.0	:	20	23	<5	5	<5 <5
IROQUOIS	18.0	24.0	25.0	:	56	60	<5	8	<5 6
:SUGAR CREEK									
MILFORD	18.0	22.0	26.0	:	47	47	10	14	<5 <5
:IROQUOIS RIVER									
CHEBANSE	16.0	18.0	20.0	:	15	15	7	11	<5 7
:KANKAKEE RIVER									
WILMINGTON	6.5	8.0	10.0	:	17	20	8	10	<5 <5
:DES PLAINES RIVER									
RUSSELL	7.0	9.0	10.0	:	61	64	<5	5	<5 <5
GURNEE	7.0	9.0	11.0	:	49	51	<5	7	<5 <5
LINCOLNSHIRE	12.5	14.0	15.5	:	15	19	<5	8	<5 <5
DES PLAINES	15.0	18.0	19.0	:	19	20	5	6	<5 <5
RIVER FOREST	16.0	17.5	18.5	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5 <5
RIVERSIDE	7.0	8.0	9.0	:	17	19	10	13	<5 <5
LEMONT	10.0	11.0	12.0	:	48	46	17	18	9 8
:W BR DU PAGE RIVER									
WARRENVILLE	11.5	14.5	17.5	:	21	22	<5	<5	<5 <5
:EAST BRANCH DU PAGE RIVER									
BOLINGBROOK	19.5	21.0	23.0	:	48	49	16	12	<5 <5
:DU PAGE RIVER									
PLAINFIELD	12.0	14.0	15.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5 <5
SHOREWOOD	6.5	8.0	10.0	:	10	12	<5	<5	<5 <5
:MAZON RIVER									
COAL CITY	12.0	14.0	17.0	:	17	20	<5	<5	<5 <5
:FOX RIVER									
ALGONQUIN TAILWAT	9.5	10.5	12.0	:	68	66	35	35	16 18
MONTGOMERY	13.0	14.0	15.0	:	53	46	9	12	<5 <5
DAYTON	12.0	14.0	24.0	:	41	43	17	15	<5 <5
:VERMILION RIVER									
PONTIAC	14.0	15.0	18.0	:	15	15	10	10	<5 <5
LEONORE	16.0	21.0	26.0	:	40	38	11	10	<5 <5
:PECATONICA RIVER									
SHIRLAND	12.0	14.0	15.5	:	53	42	15	14	<5 <5
:ROCK RIVER									
ROCKTON	10.0	11.0	14.0	:	27	23	21	12	<5 <5
LATHAM PARK	10.0	11.0	14.0	:	27	23	21	11	<5 <5
ROCKFORD	9.0	10.0	11.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5 <5
:KISHWAUKEE RIVER									
BELVIDERE	9.0	10.0	12.0	:	17	13	<5	6	<5 <5
:SOUTH BRANCH KISHWAUKEE RIVER									
DE KALB	10.0	11.0	12.5	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5 <5
:KISHWAUKEE RIVER									
PERRYVILLE	12.0	18.0	22.0	:	36	43	<5	<5	<5 <5
:ROCK RIVER									
BYRON	13.0	14.0	16.0	:	25	15	14	11	5 8
DIXON	16.0	18.0	20.0	:	17	14	6	8	<5 <5

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:NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER
CHICAGO ALBANY AV      7.0    7.5    8.0 :    6    6   <5   <5   <5   <5
:ILLINOIS RIVER
MORRIS                 16.0   18.0   22.0 :   39   41   24   24   <5    6
OTTAWA                 463.0  466.0  469.0 :   33   34   18   19    8    6
LA SALLE               20.0   27.0   31.0 :   77   71   19   20   <5   <5

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LEGEND

CS = CONDITIONAL SIMULATION (CURRENT OUTLOOK)

HS = HISTORICAL SIMULATION

FT = FEET

IN TABLE 2 BELOW...THE 95 THROUGH 5 PERCENT COLUMNS INDICATE THE PROBABILITY OF EXCEEDING THE LISTED STAGE LEVELS (FT) FOR THE VALID TIME PERIOD.

...TABLE 2--EXCEEDANCE PROBABILITIES...

CHANCE OF EXCEEDING STAGES AT SPECIFIC LOCATIONS VALID PERIOD: 02/21/2016 - 05/21/2016							
LOCATION	95%	90%	75%	50%	25%	10%	5%
:HART DITCH							
DYER	3.3	3.7	4.6	5.5	6.7	7.7	8.0
:THORN CREEK							
THORNTON	4.3	4.5	5.6	6.6	8.0	9.2	10.0
:LITTLE CALUMET RIVER							
MUNSTER	8.0	9.1	9.9	10.9	12.2	14.4	15.0
SOUTH HOLLAND	8.8	9.3	11.0	12.2	13.7	14.5	14.9
:KANKAKEE RIVER							
DUNNS BRIDGE	6.5	7.1	8.1	9.1	9.9	10.6	11.2
KOUTS	7.5	8.2	9.2	10.2	11.1	11.8	12.3
SHELBY	7.7	8.3	9.2	10.4	11.3	13.3	13.6
MOMENCE	3.0	3.3	3.7	4.5	5.2	6.7	8.2
:IROQUOIS RIVER							
RENSSELAER	7.1	8.5	9.7	11.0	12.2	13.4	17.5
FORESMAN	11.3	12.9	14.5	16.2	17.7	19.3	21.3
IROQUOIS	11.4	13.3	16.2	18.2	21.1	22.2	23.8
:SUGAR CREEK							
MILFORD	11.1	12.2	16.2	17.9	19.7	21.9	24.2
:IROQUOIS RIVER							
CHEBANSE	7.5	9.0	10.7	12.5	15.2	16.6	19.8
:KANKAKEE RIVER							
WILMINGTON	2.9	3.2	4.1	5.1	6.0	7.1	8.8
:DES PLAINES RIVER							
RUSSELL	4.4	5.5	6.3	7.2	7.5	7.8	8.1
GURNEE	3.8	4.8	5.5	6.9	7.5	8.0	8.3
LINCOLNSHIRE	8.1	8.9	9.7	10.7	11.7	13.0	13.3
DES PLAINES	10.0	11.3	12.4	13.6	14.6	16.7	18.3
RIVER FOREST	6.9	8.2	10.1	11.5	12.7	15.0	15.7
RIVERSIDE	3.9	4.4	5.5	6.0	6.7	8.0	8.4
LEMONT	7.5	8.1	9.2	9.8	10.6	11.8	12.6
:W BR DU PAGE RIVER							
WARRENVILLE	9.2	9.4	9.7	10.6	11.4	11.9	12.5
:EAST BRANCH DU PAGE RIVER							
BOLINGBROOK	17.2	17.5	18.5	19.4	20.6	21.3	21.9

:DU PAGE RIVER							
PLAINFIELD	8.3	8.4	9.2	9.9	10.6	11.0	11.7
SHOREWOOD	3.4	3.6	4.5	5.1	6.0	6.5	7.4
:MAZON RIVER							
COAL CITY	4.5	5.3	7.7	9.6	11.2	13.1	13.7
:FOX RIVER							
ALGONQUIN TAILWAT	7.9	8.5	9.1	10.1	11.0	13.0	14.0
MONTGOMERY	12.2	12.5	12.7	13.0	13.3	13.9	14.1
DAYTON	8.5	8.9	10.3	11.7	12.7	15.3	16.3
:VERMILION RIVER							
PONTIAC	5.4	6.4	7.8	10.2	12.3	15.0	17.8
LEONORE	8.3	9.8	11.3	14.6	17.9	21.1	22.4
:PECATONICA RIVER							
SHIRLAND	9.1	9.6	10.8	12.1	13.4	14.7	15.1
:ROCK RIVER							
ROCKTON	5.7	6.3	7.2	8.7	10.5	12.4	13.6
LATHAM PARK	6.3	6.8	7.6	8.9	10.5	12.2	13.4
ROCKFORD	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.7	5.8	6.6
:KISHWAUKEE RIVER							
BELVIDERE	3.9	5.0	5.5	6.5	8.2	9.3	9.5
:SOUTH BRANCH KISHWAUKEE RIVER							
DE KALB	5.6	5.7	6.4	7.1	8.3	9.2	9.6
:KISHWAUKEE RIVER							
PERRYVILLE	8.9	9.4	10.2	11.5	12.5	14.0	14.6
:ROCK RIVER							
BYRON	8.7	9.4	10.0	11.6	13.0	14.9	16.0
DIXON	11.4	11.6	12.1	13.7	15.1	16.6	19.2
:NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER							
CHICAGO ALBANY AV	3.8	3.9	4.8	5.3	5.8	6.8	7.1
:ILLINOIS RIVER							
MORRIS	7.5	8.6	11.9	14.6	17.9	21.1	21.9
OTTAWA	459.1	459.3	461.0	461.9	464.0	468.4	469.5
LA SALLE	14.4	16.0	20.1	23.1	25.5	29.4	30.1

IN TABLE 3 BELOW...THE 95 THROUGH 5 PERCENT COLUMNS INDICATE THE PROBABILITY OF FALLING BELOW THE LISTED STAGE LEVELS (FT) FOR THE VALID TIME PERIOD.

...TABLE 3--NONEXCEEDANCE PROBABILITIES...

LOCATION	CHANCE OF FALLING BELOW STAGES AT SPECIFIC LOCATIONS						
	VALID PERIOD: 02/21/2016 - 05/21/2016						
	95%	90%	75%	50%	25%	10%	5%
:HART DITCH							
DYER	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
:THORN CREEK							
THORNTON	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7
:LITTLE CALUMET RIVER							
MUNSTER	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8
SOUTH HOLLAND	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.0
:KANKAKEE RIVER							
DUNNS BRIDGE	4.5	4.5	4.3	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.1
KOUTS	5.5	5.4	5.2	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.0
SHELBY	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.3	4.9	4.7	4.4
MOMENCE	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6

:IROQUOIS RIVER							
RENSSELAER	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.6
FORESMAN	7.5	7.3	7.0	6.5	6.1	5.8	5.5
IROQUOIS	7.4	7.0	6.7	6.3	5.9	5.5	5.3
:SUGAR CREEK							
MILFORD	4.2	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.3
:IROQUOIS RIVER							
CHEBANSE	4.6	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.3	3.2
:KANKAKEE RIVER							
WILMINGTON	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3
:DES PLAINES RIVER							
RUSSELL	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0
GURNEE	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.7
LINCOLNSHIRE	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.2	6.1
DES PLAINES	8.9	8.7	8.5	8.3	8.0	7.8	7.7
RIVER FOREST	4.9	4.7	4.5	3.9	3.5	3.1	3.0
RIVERSIDE	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.8
LEMONT	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.1
:W BR DU PAGE RIVER							
WARRENVILLE	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1
:EAST BRANCH DU PAGE RIVER							
BOLINGBROOK	14.7	14.7	14.6	14.5	14.4	14.3	14.3
:DU PAGE RIVER							
PLAINFIELD	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5
SHOREWOOD	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1
:MAZON RIVER							
COAL CITY	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.2
:FOX RIVER							
ALGONQUIN TAILWAT	6.7	6.4	5.8	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.6
MONTGOMERY	11.8	11.7	11.5	11.3	11.3	11.1	11.1
DAYTON	7.3	7.1	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.5	5.4
:VERMILION RIVER							
PONTIAC	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.0
LEONORE	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.2	3.9	3.8
:PECATONICA RIVER							
SHIRLAND	7.4	7.2	6.7	5.9	5.4	5.0	4.9
:ROCK RIVER							
ROCKTON	4.9	4.6	4.3	3.9	3.2	2.8	2.6
LATHAM PARK	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.9	4.4	4.1	4.0
ROCKFORD	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.5
:KISHWAUKEE RIVER							
BELVIDERE	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3
:SOUTH BRANCH KISHWAUKEE RIVER							
DE KALB	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2
:KISHWAUKEE RIVER							
PERRYVILLE	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.7
:ROCK RIVER							
BYRON	7.8	7.3	7.2	6.7	6.1	5.7	5.6
DIXON	10.2	9.9	9.8	9.3	8.9	8.5	8.4
:NORTH BRANCH CHICAGO RIVER							
CHICAGO ALBANY AV	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
:ILLINOIS RIVER							
MORRIS	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.8
OTTAWA	458.7	458.7	458.6	458.6	458.5	458.5	458.5
LA SALLE	12.2	12.1	11.8	11.6	11.3	11.0	10.9

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHICAGO OFFICE IN ROMEOVILLE ISSUES

LONG RANGE AHPS OUTLOOKS FOR ALL RIVER FORECAST LOCATIONS. THIS PRODUCT IS UPDATED MONTHLY AROUND MID-MONTH. THESE OUTLOOKS ARE ISSUED IN ADDITION TO THE 7 DAY RIVER FORECASTS THAT ARE ISSUED WHEN RIVER FORECAST LOCATIONS ARE IN FLOOD OR FORECAST TO RISE ABOVE FLOOD STAGE.

THIS LONG-RANGE PROBABILISTIC OUTLOOK CONTAINS FORECAST VALUES THAT ARE CALCULATED USING MULTIPLE SEASON SCENARIOS FROM 30 OR MORE YEARS OF CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA INCLUDING CURRENT CONDITIONS OF THE RIVER...SOIL MOISTURE...AND 30 TO 90 DAY LONG-RANGE OUTLOOKS OF TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION.

BY PROVIDING THE COMPLETE RANGE OF PROBABILISTIC NUMBERS...THE LEVEL OF RISK ASSOCIATED WITH LONG-RANGE PLANNING DECISIONS CAN BE DETERMINED. THESE PROBABILISTIC FORECASTS ARE PART OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ADVANCED HYDROLOGIC PREDICTION SERVICE.

...FLOOD TERMINOLOGY...

MINOR FLOODING IS USED TO INDICATE MINIMAL OR NO PROPERTY DAMAGE. HOWEVER SOME PUBLIC INCONVENIENCE IS POSSIBLE.

MODERATE FLOODING IS USED TO INDICATE THE INUNDATION OF SECONDARY ROADS. TRANSFER TO HIGHER ELEVATIONS MAY BE NECESSARY TO SAVE PROPERTY. SOME EVACUATIONS MAY BE REQUIRED.

MAJOR FLOODING IS USED TO INDICATE EXTENSIVE INUNDATION AND PROPERTY DAMAGE USUALLY CHARACTERIZED BY EVACUATION OF PEOPLE AND LIVESTOCK AND CLOSURE OF BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ROADS.

VISIT OUR WEB PAGE AT WEATHER.GOV/CHICAGO FOR MORE WEATHER AND RIVER INFORMATION INCLUDING GRAPHS OF PROBABILISTIC RIVER OUTLOOKS.

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THE NEXT SCHEDULED SPRING FLOOD OUTLOOK WILL BE ISSUED ON MARCH 3 2016.

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