III.2-PEAKFLOW PEAK FLOW DATA ACCESS

Peak flow data is available on Internet Historical Data Access Home
Page (see Chapter III.2) by selecting 'Peak Flow'.

Data is available from the NHDS Archive and from the USGS.

Getting Data from the NHDS Archive

Some data for all stations for each state is available in a UNIX
compressed file.

Download the file to the directory defined by the apps_default token
peakflow_data_dir and un-compress it.

Getting Data from the USGS

If data from the USGS is needed then select 'USGS's web site' and:

1. **Select the Sites**

Set one or more criteria to use for selecting sites and then select
the sites.

2. **Download the Data**

The data must be downloaded in the correct format in order for
Operation PEAKFLOW to process the data. Retrieve the full period of
available records so that you do not have to repeat the process if you
decide to calibrate on a different time period. The data does not
take up much disk space and the entire period should be reviewed
visually to determine the appropriate time periods for calibration and
verification.

To download the data:
   - select 'Tab-separated data' format, 'YYYY-MM-DD' date format and
     'Save to file'
   - select 'Submit' and save the file using a meaningful file name

The file must be moved directory defined by the apps_default token
peakflow_data_dir.

The data file is not a time series but only records selected
instantaneous peak discharge events from the year.

The 'Tab-separated data' format uses tabs to separate the columns of
data. The tabs must be remove and converted to spaces.

Apps_defaults token peakflow_data_dir

Operation PEAKFLOW reads the peakflow data from the directory defined

by the apps_default token peakflow_data_dir. The file name is read in from the card input for the Operation and appended to the directory name defined by the peakflow_data_dir token.