

VI.3.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE DEFINITION OF THE FORECAST SYSTEMS

The two primary programs used to initialize the Operational Forecast System (OFS) are the Preprocessor Component Initialization Program (PPINIT) and the Forecast Component Initialization Program (FCINIT).

These programs define all of the parametric input needed before the system can be used for operational forecasting.

Section VI.3.3 [[Hyperlink](#)] describes program PPINIT which is used to define the operational station network that reports data in real-time. PPINIT is also used to define basin (sub-area) boundaries and parametric information needed to compute mean areal values of precipitation, temperature and potential evaporation.

Section VI.3.4 [[Hyperlink](#)] describes program FCINIT which is used to define Rating Curves and the information that defines the hydrologic and hydraulic computations that will be used in the specified river systems.

The steps to be followed when initializing the OFS are given in Section VI.2.2 [[Hyperlink](#)].

Besides being used to define the OFS, programs PPINIT and FCINIT are used to maintain the parametric information. The programs can be used to redefine, delete and display parametric information. Both programs contain automatic features that insure that all the necessary checks and changes are made when parametric values are changed or deleted.

Once the OFS is defined other software systems that get parametric information from the OFS data bases can be defined.

Section VI.3.5 [[Hyperlink](#)] describes the ESP Initialization Program (ESPINIT) which is used to define the information needed to run the ESP Function. ESPINIT defines extra parameters needed by ESP such as information about the historical time series data and the contents of ESP displays. ESPINIT can be used to redefine, delete and display parametric information. Section VI.2.5 contains the steps to follow when initializing the ESP system.

Section VI.3.6 [[Hyperlink](#)] contains information about the programs used to initialize the Flash Flood Guidance System.