

recorded at C1383 in March. The all-time record high of 0.00, at W796 was tied in January and March. A new all-time record low was recorded, in September, at H1A, K872A, K881, PE594, and P12.

## SPECIAL NETWORKS AND PROGRAMS

Hydrologic Bench-Mark Network is a network of 50 sites in small drainage basins around the country whose purpose is to provide consistent data on the hydrology, including water quality, and related factors in representative undeveloped watersheds nationwide, and to provide analyses on a continuing basis to compare and contrast conditions observed in basins more obviously affected by human activities. The gaging station on the Wild River at Gilead (01054200) is in this network.

The National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program of the U.S. Geological Survey is a long-term program with goals to describe the status and trends of water-quality conditions for a large, representative part of the Nations ground- and surface-water resources; provide an improved understanding of the primary natural and human factors affecting these observed conditions and trends; and provide information that supports development and evaluation of management, regulatory, and monitoring decisions by other agencies.

Assessment activities are being conducted in 53 study units (major watersheds and aquifer systems) that represent a wide range of environmental settings nationwide and that account for a large percentage of the Nations water use. A wide array of chemical constituents will be measured in ground water, surface water, streambed sediments, and fish tissues. The coordinated application of comparative hydrologic studies at a wide range of spatial and temporal scales will provide information for decision making by water-resources managers and a foundation for aggregation and comparison of findings to address water-quality issues of regional and national interest.

Communication and coordination between USGS personnel and other local, State, and federal interests are critical components of the NAWQA Program. Each study unit has a local liaison committee consisting of representatives from key federal, State, and local water resources agencies, Indian nations, and universities in the study unit. Liaison committees typically meet semiannually to discuss their information needs, monitoring plans and progress, desired information products, and opportunities to collaborate efforts among the agencies.

The New England Coastal Basins (NECB) NAWQA study unit encompasses 23,000 square miles in western and central Maine, eastern New Hampshire, eastern Massachusetts, most of Rhode Island, and a small part of eastern Connecticut. The NECB NAWQA fixed station published in this report is the Kennebec River at North Sidney (01049265).

Additional information about the NAWQA Program is available through the world wide web at:

[http://wwwrvaes.er.usgs.gov/nawqa/nawqa\\_home.html](http://wwwrvaes.er.usgs.gov/nawqa/nawqa_home.html)

## EXPLANATION OF THE RECORDS

The surface-water and ground-water records published in this report are for the 1999 water year that began October 1, 1998, and ended September 30, 1999. A calendar of the water year is provided on the inside of the front cover. The records contain streamflow data, stage data for streams, water-quality data for surface water, precipitation quantity data, and ground-water level data. The locations of the stations and wells where the data were collected are shown in figures 1 and 2. The following sections of the introductory text are presented to provide users with a more detailed explanation of how the hydrologic data published in this report were collected, analyzed, computed, and arranged for presentation.

### Station Identification Numbers

Each data station, whether stream site, well, or precipitation station, in this report is assigned a unique identification number. This number is unique in that it applies specifically to a given station and to no other. The number usually is assigned when a station is first established and is retained for that station indefinitely. The systems used by the U.S. Geological Survey to assign identification numbers for surface-water stations and for ground-water well sites differ, but both are based on geographic location. The "downstream order" system is used for regular surface-water and co-located precipitation stations and the "latitude-longitude" system is used for wells and precipitation stations which are not located at surface-water stations.

#### **Downstream Order System**

Since October 1, 1950, the order of listing hydrologic-station records in Survey reports is in a downstream direction along the main stream. All stations on a tributary entering upstream from a mainstream station are listed before that station. A station on a tributary that enters between two mainstream stations is listed between them. A similar order is followed in listing stations on first rank, second rank, and other ranks of tributaries. The rank of any tributary with respect to the stream to which it is immediately tributary is indicated by an indention in the "List of Stations" in the front of this report. Each indention represents one rank. This downstream order and system of indention shows which stations are on tributaries between any two stations and the rank of the tributary on which each station is situated.

The station-identification number is assigned according to downstream order. In assigning station numbers, no distinction is made between partial-record stations and other stations; therefore, the station number for a partial-record station indicates downstream-order position in a list made up of both types of stations. Gaps are left in the series of numbers to allow for new stations that may be established; hence, the numbers are not consecutive. The complete eight-digit number for each station, such as 01031500, which appears just to the left of the station name, includes the two-digit Part number "01" plus the six-digit downstream-order number "031500." The Part number designates the major river basins; for example, Part "01" is for the North Atlantic Slope basins.