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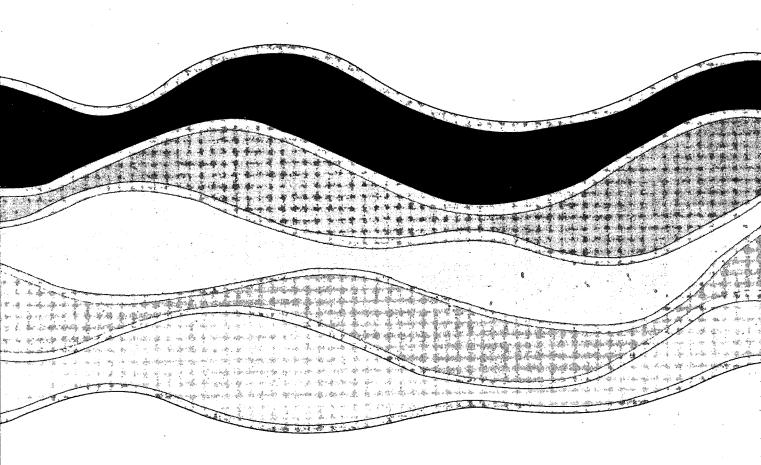
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AN EXPERT SYSTEM FOR WATER
QUALITY MODELLING

W.G. BOOTY, D.C.L. LAM, A.G. BOBBA
I. WONG, D. KAY, J.P. KERBY AND G.S. BOWEN

NWRI CONTRIBUTION 90-80

AN EXPERT SYSTEM FOR WATER QUALITY MODELLING

bу

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June 1990 NWRI Contribution # 90-80

The RAISON-micro (Regional Analysis by Intelligent System ON a micro-computer) expert system (Swayne and Fraser, 1986; Lam et al.. 1988) is being used to predict the effects of mine effluents on receiving waters in Ontario. The potential of this system to assist regulatory agencies and mining industries to define more acceptable effluent limits was shown in an initial study (Wong et al., 1989). This system has been further developed so that the expert system helps the model user choose the most appropriate model for a particular application from a hierarchy of models. The system currently contains 7 models which range from steady state to time dependent models, for both conservative and nonconservative substances in rivers and lakes. The menu driven expert system prompts the model user for information such as the nature of the receiving water system, the type of effluent being considered, and the range of background data available for use as input data to the models. The system can also be used to determine the nature of the environmental conditions at the site which are not available in the textual information database, such as the components of river flow. Applications of the water quality expert system are presented for representative mine sites in the Timmins area of Ontario.

Le système expert RAISON-micro (Regional Analysis by Intelligent System ON a micro-computer - analyse régionale par un système intelligent sur un micro-ordinateur) (Swayne et Fraser, 1986; Lam et al., 1988) est utilisé pour prédire les effets des effluents miniers sur les eaux réceptrices en Ontario. Une étude initiale (Wong et al., 1989) a montré que ce système pouvait aider les organismes de réglementation et les industries minières à définir des limites plus acceptables en matière d'effluents. Des améliorations ont été apportées au système de façon à permettre à l'utilisateur de faire appel au système expert pour choisir le modèle le plus approprié à partir d'une hiérarchie de modèles. Le système comporte actuellement 7 modèles applicables àdes substances biodégradables et non biodégradables dans des cours d'eau et dans des lacs, dans des conditions de régime permanent et de variation en fonction du temps. Le système expert piloté par menu demande à l'utilisateur dumodèle des renseignements tels que la nature des eaux réceptrices, le type d'effluents considéré et la gamme de données de base disponibles pouvant être utilisées comme données d'entrée dans les modèles. Le système permet aussi de déterminer la nature des conditions environnementales sur le site considéré quine sont pas disponibles dans la base de données textuelle, telles que les composantes du débit fluvial. Des applications du système expert sur la qualitéde l'eau sont présentées pour des sites miniers représentatifs de la région de Timmins en Ontario.

MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVE

At the request of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, as part of the MISA (Municipal Industrial Strategy for Assessment), an expert system has been developed within the RAISON (Regional Analysis by Intelligent System ON a Micro-computer) in order to predict the effects of mine effluents on receiving waters in Ontario. The system contains a mine effluent model choice advisor which helps the model user to choose the most appropriate model for a particular application from a hierarchy of 7 models. These models make predictions about the concentrations of contaminants within the mixing zones as well as the areas of complete mixing for both steady state and time dependent conditions. Initial applications are presented for the Timmins mining district of Ontario. The overall goal of the development of the system is to provide a mechanism by which a broad range of users can evaluate a wide spectrum of contaminants and aquatic systems with respect to the overall goal of sustainable development of our natural resources.

PERSPECTIVE DE GESTION

A la demande du ministère de l'Environnement de l'Ontario, dans le cadre de la SMID (Stratégie municipale et industrielle de dépollution), un système expert a été mis au point et intégré au RAISON (Regional Analysis by Intelligent System ON a Micro-computer) dans le but de prédire les effets des effluents miniers sur les eaux réceptrices en Ontario. Le système contient un conseiller qui aide l'utilisateur à choisir le modèle d'effluent minier le plusapproprié à partir d'une hiérarchie de 7 modèles. Ces modèles prédisent les concentrations de contaminants dans les zones de mélange ainsi que les zones demélange complet dans des conditions de régime permanent et de variation en fonction du temps. Les applications initiales présentées concernent la région minière de Timmins en Ontario. Le système a été mis au point dans le but d'offrir à une large gamme d'utilisateurs un mécanisme leur permettant d'évaluer un vaste spectre de contaminants et de systèmes aquatiques en fonction de l'objectif global d'une mise en valeur durable de nos ressources naturelles.

AN EXPERT SYSTEM FOR WATER QUALITY MODELLING

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Abstract

The RAISON-micro(Regional Analysis by Intelligent System ON a micro-computer) expert system (Swayne and Fraser, 1986; Lam et al., 1988) is being used to predict the effects of mine effluents on receiving waters in Ontario. The potential of this system to assist regulatory agencies and mining industries to define more acceptable effluent limits was shown in an initial study (Wong et al., 1989). This system has been further developed so that the expert system helps the model user choose the most appropriate model for a particular application from a hierarchy of models. The system currently contains 7 models which range from steady state to time dependent models, for both conservative and nonconservative substances in rivers and lakes. The menu driven expert system prompts the model user for information such as the nature of the receiving water system, the type of effluent being considered, and the range of background data available for use as input data to the models. The system can also be used to determine the nature of the environmental conditions at the site which are not available in the textual information database, such as the components of river flow. Applications of the water quality expert system are presented for representative mine sites in the Timmins area of Ontario.

Introduction

Models can be used to predict exposure and water quality in aquatic systems in order to ensure that water quality objectives will be maintained under a wide variety of conditions. Models provide the ability to develop a credible and defensible water quality management program. They are continually being developed and upgraded to optimize the often competing demand of regulation, environmental protection, and efficacy and cost control measures. There are a large number of available models in the literature (Booty and Lam, 1990) which could potentially be used for water quality and wasteload allocation predictions. However, at this stage in the

development of the expert system for water quality modelling, the hierarchy of models has been limited to 7 models, several of which are used by the U.S. EPA (U.S. EPA, 1985), which have been applied to Ontario Ministry of the Environment guidelines. These models are used to make predictions about the concentrations of contaminants in the mixing zones as well as the areas of complete mixing of receiving waters. The system has initially been developed for application to mine effluents in Ontario as part of the MISA (Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement). The overall goal of the development of the system is to provide a mechanism by which a broad range of users can evaluate a wide spectrum of contaminants and aquatic systems with respect to the overall goal of sustainable development of our natural resources.

This paper presents an overview of the Mine Effluent Model Choice Advisor which can be used within the RAISON MISA Mine Effluent Models for Receiving Waters System, the model methodology, and examples of applications to mine sites in the Timmins region of Ontario, Canada.

Mine Effluent Model Choice Advisor

Most environmental assessment projects share the same characteristics of uncertain or incomplete data which varies in both time and space as well as a wide variety of possible models which could be used to simulate the behaviour of an ecological system. This is also the case for the problem of assessing the effects of mine effluents on receiving waters, where it is necessary to apply the correct model based on the characteristics of the receiver and source, often for the situation where there is imprecise or incomplete data.

The motivation for the use of expert system technology in the assessment of mine effluent effects on receiving waters is traditional in the sense that what was required was a method to encode and capture expertise. Resource managers and policy makers can only benefit from a more complete and robust information system for decision support. The expert system presented provides such inexperienced users with a systematic and intelligent model choice system to assist in the impact assessment process. Also, throughout the development process, other ostensible applications for rule based technology became apparent. For example, it was discovered that rule bases would be suitable in this particular application to infer values for missing data items and test the integrity of incoming data. Further development in this area is part of future plans for the project.

The choice of rule based technology proved to be beneficial at the time of development. The knowledge engineering process is inherently iterative. Close contact by the domain expert during expert system development ensures a complete and accurate representation of domain specific knowledge. For the given system there was a clear separation of the rules from the inferencing capability, and the simulation subsystem. Such a modular design allowed the knowledge base (rules) to evolve independently of development in other areas. The result was an uncompromised translation of relevant domain expertise.

The model selection process is hierarchical in nature and decisions are based on the values of input parameters, model assumptions, and the availability of input data. The model selection process solicits information from both the user and the information system (the databases), and based on these values, a final model selection is made.

The typical model selection yields a single model choice, yet, based on certain characteristics, the process may yield a complex result, where the simulation requires different phases. For example, consider the following dialogue from the expert system advisor:

What are the characteristics of the receiving water?

- * A small creek or swampy area with a poorly defined channel
- * A stream or river with a well defined channel
- * A lake or river with > 20 day residence
- ==> A stream or river with a well defined channel

Calculate distance to edge of mixing zone?

- * yes
- * no
- ==> yes

What is the model mode?

- * Steady state
- * NOT steady state
- ==> Steady state

Is the chemical type conservative?

- * yes
- * no
- ==> no

Are the contaminants involved characterized by major decay or removal from the aqueous system via adsorption onto and settling of suspended solids?

- * yes
- * no
- ==> yes

The model selection is:

model 4a + model 7a

The expert system prototype was implemented using a suite of rule bases. The basic inferencing technique was data driven or forward chained. That is, given a set of parameter values for a scenario, the inference engine would fire a rule (or a series of rules) yielding a final model choice result. The following exemplifies a typical rule:

RULE: Rule 11

If Receiver is "Stream_or_River"

And Distance_to_Mixing_Zone is "Calculate_yes"

And Concentration is "Calculate_yes"

And Model_Mode is "Steady_State"

And Chemical_Type is "Not_Conservative"

Then Run Model 4A
is confirmed.

And Link is set to "Model 7A_yes"

And Secondary_Model is set to "Model 7A"

Phase II of the mine effluent system involves the communication of the model choice directives to the simulation subsystem and the subsequent application of the selected model. In the original RAISON expert system the knowledge base rules were written in C language directly in the RAISON program. However, this approach limited the flexibility of the system. The inferencing capability of the new system was achieved by interfacing commercial expert system shells, namely 1st-CLASS (1st-CLASS, 1988) and NEXPERT (NEXPERT,1988) to the RAISON system. The RAISON system is a complete processing framework incorporating a spreadsheet, DBMS, GIS and a programming language. Basic handshaking and message passing techniques facilitated the necessary communication between the model choice advisor and the RAISON system. All the components of the system (the simulation subsystem, the front-end model choice expert advisor, and the mine information system) operate on a common data context with a

common protocol. This design is intended to support future incremental growth of the system as required.

MISA Mine Effluent Models for Receiving Waters System

At this time there are 7 preliminary models which have been chosen to simulate steady state and time dependent receiving water concentrations within and downstream from the mixing zone. These models include: (1) Model 1:Dilution Model; (2) Model 2: Minimum dilution near field mixing zone model; (3) Model 3:Ambient mixing zone model; (4) Model 4:Ambient mixing zone with decay term model; (5) Lognormal probability distribution model; (6) Model 6:Lake/Reservoir model; and (7) Model 7:Fate/Adsorption model. The models are described in detail in Booty et al., 1990.

User/Database Interface

The screen interface of all the implemented models uses two distinct monitors; a colour monitor for graphics, and a mono screen, which is used primarily for data input and manipulation. Data input to the models can be performed by direct on-screen editing using the cursor or other related keyboard keys, pop-up windows or by retrieving data from the database given a set of indices, usually name and date. For example, for Model 1, the model user will use a combination of manual data entry and database retrieval to obtain values for the necessary model parameters. All mono screen fields can be entered and the values can be edited by the user, an example of which is shown in Figure 1 for Model 1. This example is for Cu where Qr is the receiving water flow (m³/s), Cr is the receiving water concentration (mg/L), Qe is the effluent flow, and Ce is the effluent concentration. The data can also be rapidly entered by using the database retrieval utility. In this case the model requires flow and concentration data for a contaminant at a

specific date. This data is retrieved by selecting the appropriate titles in the pop-up windows.

Background Data

A wide range of background data may be available for a particular mine and the receiving waters for its effluents. This data is stored within the RAISON system according to specific data types. For the MISA Mine Effluent Models for Receiving Water System, these data include:

- 1) Flow data (background flows, effluent flows, critical flow rates) for specific locations and dates
- 2) Concentration data (background, effluent) for specific chemicals, locations and dates
- 3) Temperature data (receiving water and effluent) for specific locations and dates
- 4) Textual information (data qualifiers, mine operation information, physical characteristics of the discharge system and the receiving water system, etc.)

If flow data is not available for a particular river system, a hydrological model is available within the RAISON system (Bobba and Lam, 1984) which can be used to generate river flows using local meteorological data. In Figure 2 the model predicted versus measured flow data are presented for the Porcupine River for 1983, near Timmins, Ontario. The model can also be used to predict the significance of the various flow components which contribute to the total river flow, as shown in Figure 3.

Guideline Data

This set of data include the federal and provincial water quality guideline limits for specific chemicals. At this stage, the guideline limits and the observed data are stored for a particular mine. In the future, the guideline limits will become a separate entity and will be stored separately. The observed data will be extracted from the mine effluent database and compared

with the guideline values.

Parameter/Coefficient Data

A number of the models require values for first order decay coefficients as well as adsorption coefficients. Values for these terms as a function of temperature, pH, and type of suspended solid, etc are also available for specific chemicals within the database

Model Applications and Results Presentation

Model results can be displayed as numerical data on a spreadsheet, a graph, as colour coded sections of a plume in the mixing zone, or as colour coded river segments on a G.I.S. (Geographical Information System) map. Examples of applications of the 7 models within the MISA Mine Effluent Models system are presented for sites within the Timmins mining district of Ontario, Canada.

Model 1 (Dilution Model)

For Model 1, the output consists of a table of the key input data as well as the concentration at downstream concentration. The results for Model 1 include the chemical name, month, effluent, downstream and upstream flows and concentrations and the percentage of the river flow required to bring concentration levels down to PWQO (Provincial Water Quality Objective) standards. Model results are presented in spreadsheet form and also in graphical form, as shown in Figure 4. In this example, the model predicted monthly Cu concentrations are presented for mean, 50 year and 100 year critical low flows. Using these model results, the mine operators may chose to only discharge effluent to the receiving water during the months of September-November. Alternatively, the model may be used to determine the monthly effluent discharge rates that would be required to meet the receiving water guidelines.

Model 2 (Minimum Mixing Zone Model)

Model 2 is normally run in series with Model 3 due to the fact that the model requires the distance to the edge of the mixing zone, which is one of the outputs of Model 3. Other inputs required for Model 2 are the diameter of the effluent discharge pipe and the width of the river. The minimum mixing zone model is used to determine the minimum amount of mixing that can be achieved within the mixing zone due to discharge induced mixing. The position of the mixing zone plume is shown in Figure 5 along with the input data and calculated flow (QD) and concentration (CD) of Cu at the edge of the mixing zone. For this case, the distance to the edge of the mixing zone is 5.56 metres. The minimum flux induced mixing or dilution factor (S) is equal to 0.861. Results can also be generated in tabular form or in graphical form, as shown in Figure 6. In this example, the expected flux-averaged dilution factors for a fixed distance to the edge of the mixing zone of 7.86 metres and a river width of 5.0 metres is presented for varying discharge pipe diameters.

Model 3 (Ambient Mixing Zone Model)

The ambient mixing zone model is initially run to determine the distance required to achieve complete mixing. In this model it is assumed that the width of the zone that is mixed by discharge induced mixing is much smaller than the width of the river. It is also assumed that the effluent chemical is conservative and consequently the distance to achieve complete mixing is not a function of the contaminant but rather the physical conditions of the river system downstream from the effluent discharge point. An example output is shown in Figure 7 for various monthly critical flow scenarios. The concentrations at the edge of the mixing zone for these flow scenarios are compared with the PWQO guideline of 0.005 mg/L in Figure 8. The

model is also capable of calculating the concentration at any point within the mixing zone plume. In Figure 9 the concentration of Cu at various distances from the discharge point within the mixing zone are shown. In this example, it is assumed that Cu behaves as a conservative chemical, at least within the mixing zone. However, if this were not considered to be a valid assumption, then Model 4 would be indicated as the correct model to use by the model choice advisor.

Model 4 (Ambient Mixing Zone Model with Decay Term)

In this model the effluent chemical is assumed to be non-conservative. Figure 10 shows the popup window that is used for input data entry. Besides the physical data for the river, the model also requires the pH of the receiving water since the decay term is a function of pH and temperature. The temperature values for the different months of the year are already entered in the database as are values for the decay coefficients for 10 common mine effluent chemicals. In Figure 11 the results of running the ambient mixing model with the decay term are shown for the same system shown in Figure 8.

Model 5 (Lognormal Probability Distribution Model)

This model is useful for predicting the frequency and duration of contaminant concentrations in a river for which time series data is lacking. The model can only be used to predict the concentration of a substance for a zone of complete mixing and for the case where it can be assumed that no significant decay or transformation has occurred. The input data are the receiver flow and concentration and the effluent flow and concentration. The user is prompted for the contaminant and its database filename, and the effluent and upstream receiver flowrate database filenames. An example is shown in Figure 12 for Bell Creek total heavy metals data (ref 15).

Model 6 (Lake/Reservoir Model)

This model is designed to determine the steady state concentration of a contaminant in a lake or reservoir with a residence time greater than 20 days. It is also assumed that the decay rate of the contaminant is constant. As shown in Figure 13, the model output includes a listing of all the model parameter values as well as a lake whose water is colour coded to show the concentration of the contaminant relative to the PWQO guideline. In this case, the concentration of Cu is less than 50% of the PWQO.

Model 7 (Fate/Adsorption Model)

In this model it is assumed that adsorption onto and settling of suspended solids are the key processes controlling the fate of a metal in a stream or river. There are a significant number of parameters which must have values assigned to them. This can be done by manual entry or through database acquisition. The user must also select a river segment to analyze. This is performed by moving the cursor cross-hair to the segment and pressing the enter key (keyboard or mouse). Access to the Model 7 database is accomplished through a series of pop-up windows. Currently, the model parameter values are stored in their own database file with a range of values for each. Retrieval of the model parameter values requires the user to select either a high, low, or average value for the entire set. Once retrieved, the user can change any of the parameter values using the editing facilities. The graphics screen allows the user to view the concentration levels of the river segment chosen. This is accomplished by colour coding the segments for high, medium and low levels. An example of the graphics screen is shown in Figure 14. Spatial and time series graphs can also be produced as output as shown in Figures 15 and 16, respectively.

Summary and Conclusions

It is important that computer models are user friendly in order that a wide range of users can easily utilize them. It also is equally important that the model users chose the best model for a particular application. To do this the model user must be familiar with the basic assumptions upon which the model is based. The preliminary model choice advisor which has been described in this paper is a convenient way of ensuring that a model user is aware of the basic assumptions and application limitations of available models. At this stage in the development of the RAISON Mine Model Expert System, insufficient data was available for calibrating the relatively simple models currently included. However, as the full spectrum of MISA data becomes available, more sophisticated models will be incorporated and tested along with the more advanced model choice advisor.

Future directions of the project include the development of a generalized RAISON expert system shell with the capabilities of both forward and backward chaining and knowledge representation through rule bases. Such a design will give the system developer the flexibility to use a combination of both conventional and expert system techniques to solve a problem without the limitations posed by disjoint systems.

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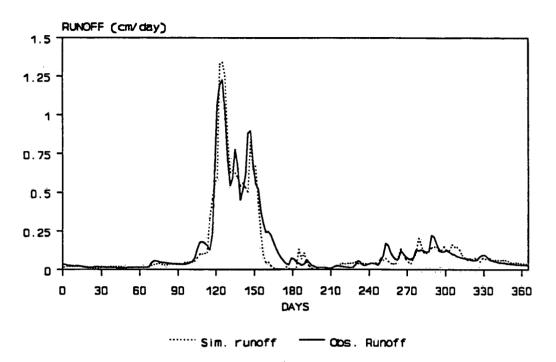
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.:1985, 'Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control', Office of Water Regulations and Standards, Washington, D.C.

Figure Captions

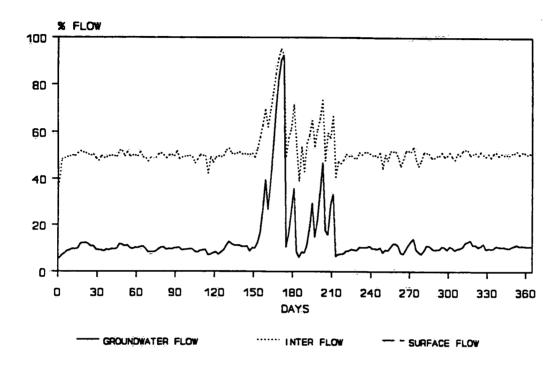
- 1) Fig. 1 Model 1 (Dilution Model) input screen
- 2) Fig. 2 Hydrological submodel simulated versus observed daily flows for the Porcupine River, 1983
- 3) Fig. 3 Porcupine River contributing flow components for 1983
- 4) Fig. 4 Dilution model predictions of downstream monthly Cu concentration for various flow scenarios
- 5) Fig. 5 Model 2 (minimum mixing zone model) graphics output screen
- 6) Fig. 6 Minimum mixing zone model predictions of the flux-averaged dilution factor for various discharge pipe diameters
- 7) Fig. 7 Model 3 monthly predictions of distance to the edge of the mixing zone for various flow scenarios
- 8) Fig. 8 Monthly concentrations of Cu at the edge of the mixing zone for various flow scenarios
- 9) Fig. 9 Cu concentration as a function of distance from the discharge point
- 10) Fig. 10 Model 4 (ambient mixing zone model with decay) input screen
- 11) Fig. 11 Model 4 predictions of Cu concentrations at the edge of the mixing zone for various flow scenarios
- 12) Fig. 12 Lognormal probability distribution of total heavy metals downstream of the Bell Creek Mine
- 13) Fig. 13 Lake/Reservoir model predictions of Cu concentration with respect to the PWQO guideline
- 14) Fig. 14 Fate/adsorption model output graphics screen for the Porcupine River
- 15) Fig. 15 Comparison of Cu, Pb, Zn, and Ni concentrations over a 2 km stretch of river
- 16) Fig. 16 Time series concentrations for Cu at a point 4500 meters downstream from the discharge point

-| Dilution Model |-Draw Plume (F2) ⟨F4⟩ Present Known Data (F6) More Models **(£3)** Edit Field (F5) Stats/Advice Month : jun Species : Cu Species-lead 213.600 zinc 0.011 Ce: 0.191 Cr : Nickel PWQ0 : 0.005000 Ammonium — NH4 Ammonia -- NH3 FED: 0.300 ONT : 1.000 -| Message |-

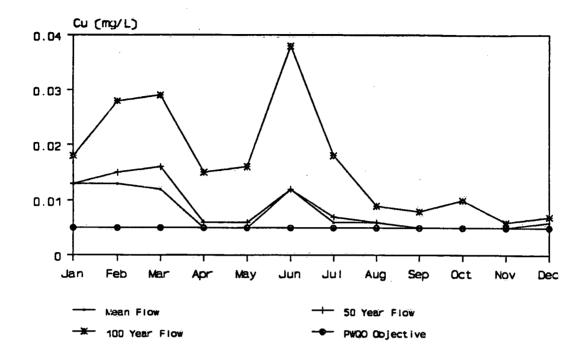
PORCUPINE RIVER RUNOFF



PORCUPINE RIVER DIFFERENT FLOWS



Dilution Model



PHQO FED ONT

Species : Cu Month : Jan

Flow:58 YR

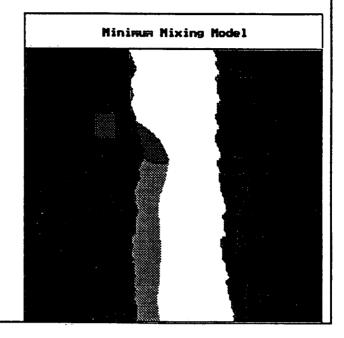
Qr: 68.000 Qe:10

Cr: 0.002 Ce:.01

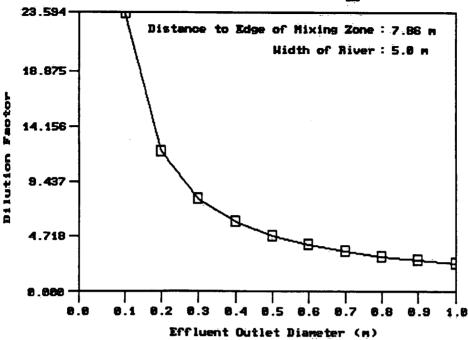
QD: 78.000 CD: 0.003

Percent River : 27.778

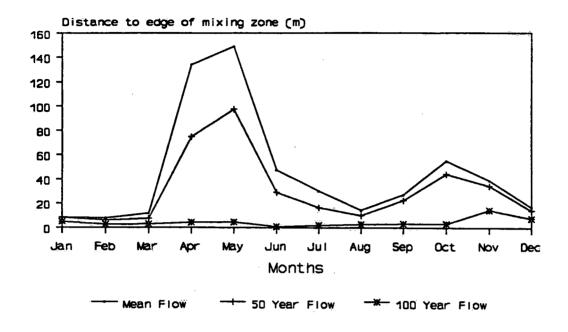
Flux-averaged Dilution : 0.861 Dist. to Mixing Edge : 5.556 m



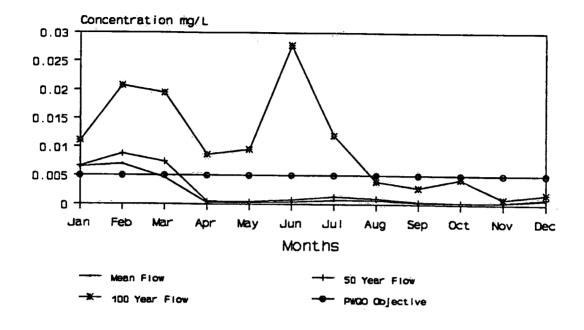
Minimum Mixing Zone



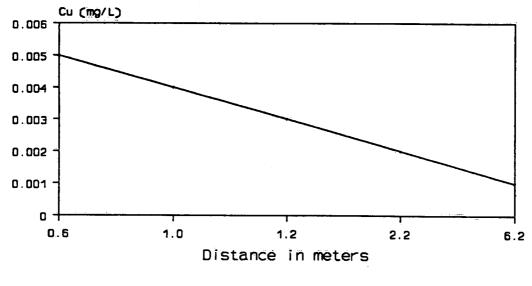
Ambient Mixing Model Flow Scenarios



Ambient Mixing Model Cu Concentration



Cu Concentration in Plume January, 50 Year flow



____ Dynamic []

Ambient Mixing Model

Parameters

Flow Velocity: 13.138 m/s

Lateral Dispersion Coeff. : 6.984824

River Area : 28.000 m²

River Gradient : 8.807500

Distance to Mixed Cond.: 95.878 M

Maximum Pollutant []: 0.000569 mg/l

Species : Pb Month : nov

Flow : 50 YR Data : Lou

QR : 252.666 QE : 10

CR : 0.010

CE : 8.818

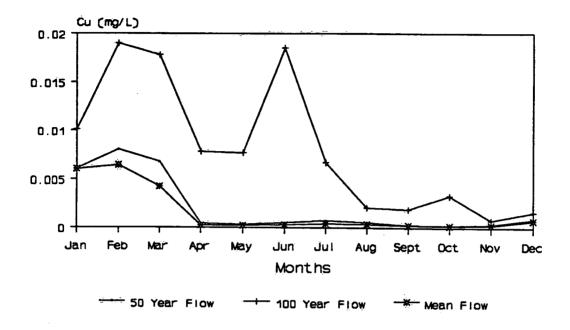
Dilution With Decay Term

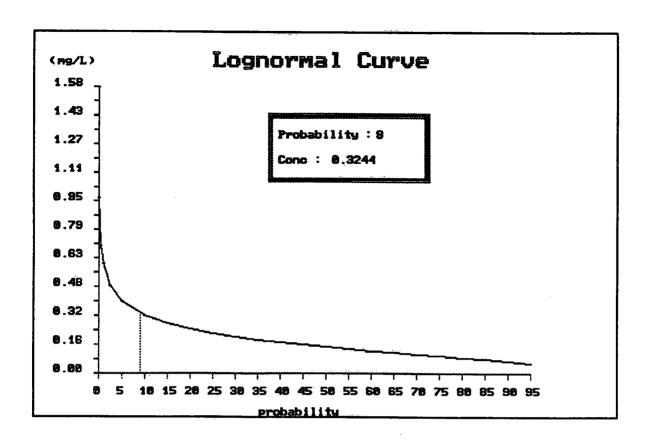
PH : 6.490

Conc. With Decay : 0.00039 mg/L

Decay Term : 8.058

Dilution With Decay Term cu





Parameters

Species : Cu Honth : Jan

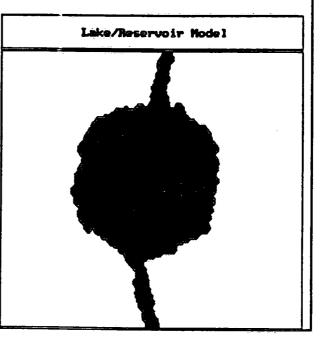
pH: 6.888 PHQO: 0.6858 mg/L Retention time: 158.25 days Steady []: 0.88825 mg/L

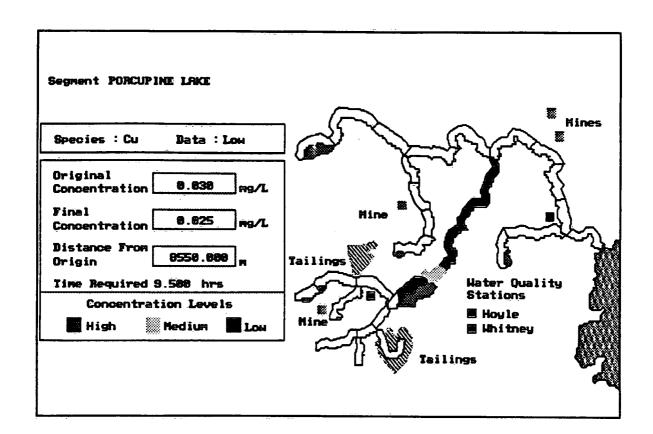
Concentration Levels

Lou

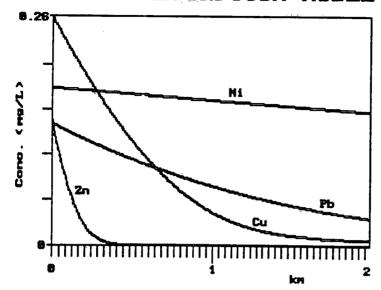
Medium

High

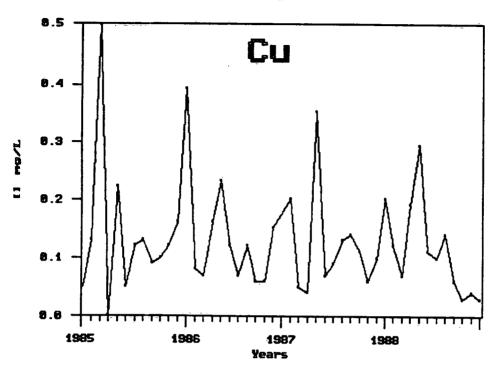




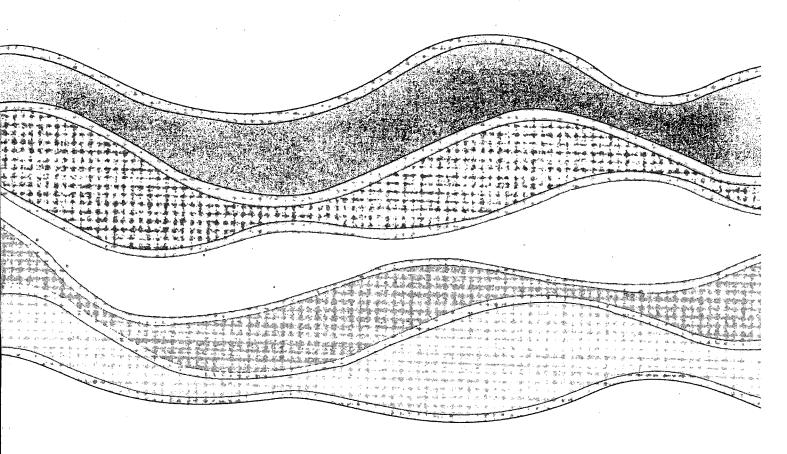
RIVER ADSORPTION MODEL



River Adsorption Model







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