Appendix A
Definitions

Archive Data stored for permanent or long-term purposes.

Archive File A collection of archive data stored in a single computer file.

ASCII American Standard Code for Information Interchange. This is the standard computer representation of characters. In this document, ASCII is implied to be the subset of the 95 printable characters.

ASCIINAME The subset of ASCII characters that may be used to form names of data sets, files, or other entities. The valid subset includes lowercase alphabetic (a-z), uppercase alphabetic (A-Z), numeric (0-9), minus sign (-), pound sign (#), and underscore (_) characters. The name must begin with an alphabetic or numeric character.

Data Information that is pertinent to hydrologic engineering and can be reasonably stored on a computer. This not only includes measured and computed values, such as stage and flow, but may include program input and output files, weather bulletins, and memos. Items such as paper maps and reports are not considered in this regulation.

Format Organization of data in fields, records, and files.

Geographic Unit A geographic area which is typically a major watershed or a collection of small watersheds.

Media The physical substance that holds computer data files. Examples are cassette tapes, floppy diskettes, and CD-ROM disks.

Model A computer program that, when combined with the appropriate data, will represent the behavior of a physical process.

Operational Data Hydrometeorological data that has been gathered or generated primarily for use in the daily operation of Corps of Engineers projects or projects for which the Corps has operational control.

Primary Data Data directly measured. This generally includes river stages, but not river flow values. (See Secondary Data.)

Processed Data Data that has been screened, validated, or computed. (See Raw Data.)

Project A project owned by the Corps or for which the Corps has operational responsibility.

Raw Data Data as received by sensors, or some other means, and loaded into a data file, but not yet screened or validated. (See Processed Data.)

Record A set of associated information within a computer file. A record may consist of one or more lines in the file.

Secondary Data Data calculated from primary or other secondary data. Such data includes river flow values that are generally derived from river stages by application of a rating curve. (See Primary Data.)

SHEF   Standard Hydrometeorological Exchange Format. A computer format used for the exchange of operational hydrometeorological data between Federal agencies and other cooperating agencies.

Study Data   Hydrometeorological data that has been assembled or generated for use in a Corps study.