AERIAL INFRARED SURVEY OF PORTIONS OF THE MONONGAHELA, OHIO, AND ALLEGHENY RIVERS; PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA VICINITY



Regional Center for Environmental Information US FPA Region III 1650 Arch St Philadolphia, PA 19103 JUNE 1973
PROJECT NO. N89.6

Prepared for SURVEILLANCE AND ANALYSIS DIVISION EPA - REGION III

Prepared by

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EPA - NERC-LAS VEGAS



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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

National Environmental Research Center (NERC) - Las Vegas under Project N89.6 conducted an aerial remote sensing survey for the Surveillance and Analysis Division - Region III. The work was initiated by a memorandum from Mr. J. Gary Gardner to Mr. L. Dunn on March 21, 1972, requesting..."IR coverage of portions of four major rivers to support enforcement activities and to provide information on waste discharge locations for possible surveillance investigations."

Based on this and other communication, aerial infrared and other data were collected on August 25, 1972, over portions of the Monongahela, Ohio, and Allegheny Rivers in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, vicinity.

The objective of this survey was to <u>locate</u> and <u>provide information</u> on waste discharges into the rivers covered. Results of this effort are presented in Section II of this report.

Section III describes the data collection operations; details of the data processing and analysis are covered in Section IV. Comments and recommendations regarding utility of this information are found in Section V. Appendix A lists the personnel, major items of equipment and functions involved in the conduct of this survey; and Appendix B is a set of eleven U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Maps (7-1/2 minute series) on which the discharge information has been plotted.



SECTION II

RESULT SUMMARY

Thirty-six discharges evidenced by their warmer surface temperature were located and mapped along the 150 linear mile (approx) section of river flown. The locations of the discharge points have been plotted on maps and listed to the nearest second. Total surface area of the mixing zones, furthest extent of the thermal influence (downstream), time of data recording and other related information have been mapped and tabulated. Area of thermal influence ranged from 40,000 to 1,360,000 sq. ft. Downstream extents varied between 400 and 3400 ft. from the discharge points. Where two thermal levels within a single mixing zone were observed, these have been mapped and noted. In several locations notations are made of mixing zones spanning the river between both shores. Occasionally, discharges could not be mapped with sufficient confidence and these are appropriately noted.



SECTION III

DATA COLLECTION

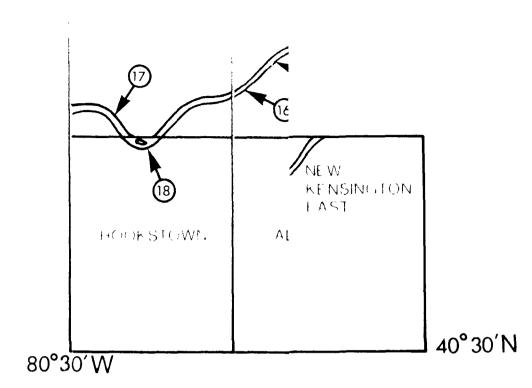
Airborne remote sensor data for this project were collected on August 25, 1972; 1158-1358 EDT. Approximately 150 linear miles of river segments were flown (figure 1). Thermal infrared (8-14 micron wavelength) imagery obtained with a HRB-Singer AN/AAS-14A optical/mechanical scanner was the primary data resulting from this effort. The aircraft altitude varied between 4000-8700 ft. above terrain. Ground coverage obtained by this scanner, of interpretive value, is a ground swath along the flight path approximately 80° wide, i.e., 6700-14,600 ft. for this project.

Figures 2 through 6 are examples of imagery resulting from this survey. To produce these images, strip film is exposed, line by line, by light, the intensity of which is controlled by the output of an infrared sensitive detector. This detector is mercury-cadmium-telluride which is cooled to a temperature of 77°K during operation to provide high temperature sensitivity. In normal operations, this scanner records temperature variations of the terrain surface on the order of several tenths of a degree centigrade.

Quality of the resultant imagery is affected by primarily;

1) condition of scanner, 2) operation of the scanner, 3) flight
procedures, and 4) weather conditions. These variables are controllable
or can be scheduled around.

Quality of infrared data collected for this project is considered fair to poor. It does, however, contain information believed to be of value to the Surveillance and Analysis Division - Region III and has therefore been analyzed and reported.





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DATA COLLECTED AUGUS

FIGURE 1 INDEX MAP



DISCHARGE LOCATION SEE REPORT FOR NUMBER REFERENCE





SECTION IV

DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

Data processing for this project consisted totally of film negative and positive development and duplication at a reconnaissancetype photographic laboratory at NERC-Las Vegas. Detailed examination of the infrared imagery for water discharge information was performed with the use of paper positive images and film positives backlighted by a simple photo interpretation light table. Interpreted discharge points and mixing zone outlines were delineated on film positive images then transferred to paper positives (figures 2 through 6) and Quadrangle Maps (Appendix B). Film and paper positives used and presented herein were photographically scaled to 1:24,000 (1 in = 2,000 ft.) to facilitate transfer of the discharge information to the maps and to minimize confusion to the reader due to scale variations in the original data. Scale variations were introduced into the data by altitude changes (above terrain) during the survey, by distortions inherent to this type of scanner recorder and by sinuous flight lines which attempted, on occasion, to follow the river courses. combination of these three resulted in a distorted, scale varying image which presented serious difficulty in attempting to position the interpreted discharge points and aerial discharge outline to the maps. Although care was taken, it is estimated that, on occasion, the discharge points presented on the maps will be over 1,000 ft. removed from their true position, and discharge boundaries may be even more poorly located on the maps. Table 1, Discharge Data, is a tabulation of all pertinent discharge information resulting from this survey.





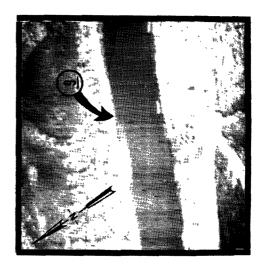


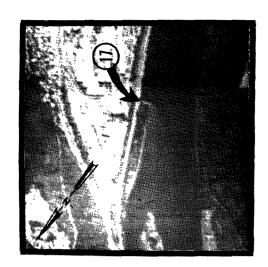
NERC-LV

Infrared imagery displaying relative surface water temperature in shades of gray (white is hot). Arrow delineates interpreted point of discharge of warmer water. Scale 1:24,000 (1 inch = 2000 ft) approximately; date 25 August 1972; time 1158 to 1358 hours EDT, see Table I for coordinates and closer times. Figure 2

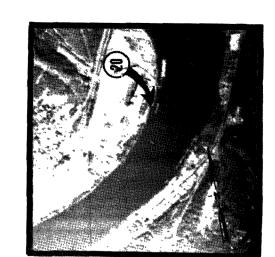


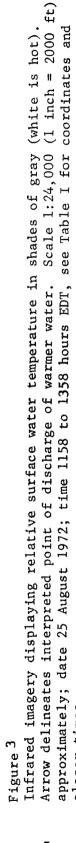


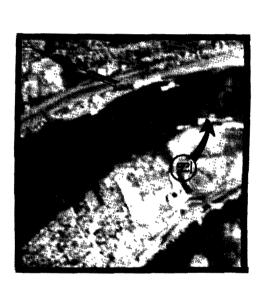








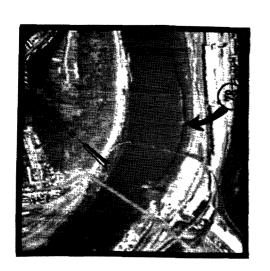




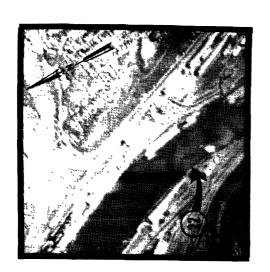


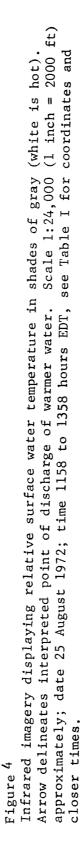


closer times.

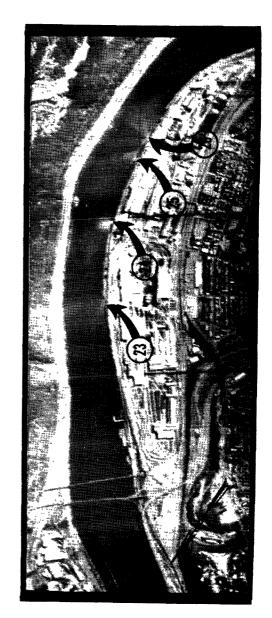










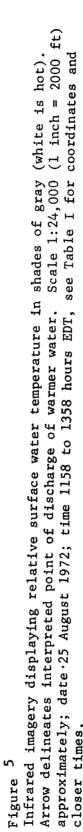
















closer times.







Infrared imagery displaying relative surface water temperature in shades of gray (white is hot). Arrow delineates interpreted point of discharge of warmer water. Scale 1:24,000 (1 inch = 2000 ft) approximately; date 25 August 1972; time 1158 to 1358 hours EDT, see Table I for coordinates and Figure 6

closer times.



Although it was not possible to determine the absolute surface water temperature of the mixing zones or receiving water, an attempt was made to indicate relative discharge temperatures. The discharges interpreted as being warmer are noted "two thermal levels" under Remarks. Both thermal levels of these mixing zones are delineated on the quadrangle maps.

Infrared images of each thermal discharge are shown as figures 2 through 6. These were included in the report to assist in any possible follow-up ground investigation where accurate positioning may be required. (Distortions and inaccuracies associated with the data and subsequent map transfers have been discussed above.) Each discharge is key numbered to the maps and tabulated data are in Table 1.

Close examination of these infrared images should reveal warmer water areas (lighter toned) sourcing at the tip of each arrow.

Although the "originals" of the imagery were slightly better quality than the report copies, the reader should be able to realize the relative confidence to place in the actual presence of each discharge. (This is the "raw" data.) Compare for example discharge #9 (Figure 2) which carries the notation in Table 1 "Questionable if discharge is actually present" with #29 which presents little detection or mapping problem. Again, it is stressed that data collected for this project was of marginal quality, not representative of unclassified state-of-the-art infrared scanning for thermal mapping purposes, and finally, not representative of future results to be produced by NERC-LV.

TABLE 1

Discharge #	River	Quadrangle Map	Loca N-Lat	Location it W-Long	Area of Thermal Influence (ft ²) (approx)	Furthest Extent of Influence (ft) (approx)	Time (EDT)	Remarks
רן,	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40024138"	79 ⁰ 53'20"	300,000	009	1146	
2	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40°24'41"	79 ⁰ 53'24"	360,000	009	1146	Two thermal levels
9	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40024145"	79 ⁰ 53'32"	240,000	009	1149	
7 7	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40024'41"	79 ⁰ 54¹54"	480,000	800	1153	
5.0.4	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40024145"	19 ₀ 2716"	160,000	800	1158	
+ ~ 9	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40°25'3"	19 ₀ 5716"	100,000	700	1158	
	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40°25'36"	79 ⁰ 57'26"	320,000	006	1158	
80 	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40°25'39"	79 ⁰ 57'30"	NA .	NA	1158	Included in #7
6	Ohio	Ambridge, Pa.	40°31'54"	80°10'08"	120,000	800	1201	Questionable(1)
10	Ohio	Ambridge, Pa.	40°34°15"	80°14'00"	720,000	1800	1205	Two thermal levels
11	Ohio	Baden, Pa.	40037 45"	80°14'08"	360,000	1200	1206	Location question(2)
12	Oh10	Baden, Pa.	40037 148"	80°14'08"	80,000	400	1206	Location question(2)
13	Ohio	Baden, Pa.	40°37°56"	80°14'08"	1,360,000	3400	1207	Two thermal levels
14	Ohio	Baden, Pa.	40°38'02"	80°14'12"	180,000	006	1207	Two thermal levels
15	0h10	Beaver, Pa.	40°40'22"	80°20'20"	720,000	1800	1213	
16	Ohio	Beaver, Pa.	40 ₀ 39'30"	80 ⁰ 21'26"	400,000	2000	1215	
17	Ohio	Midland, Pa.	40 ₀ 38,131	80°28'05"	1,200,000	2000	1216	Two thermal levels
18	Ohio	Hookstown, Pa.	40 <mark>0</mark> 37 113"	80°26'20"	480,000	1200	1216	(1); Two thermal levels
19	Ohio	Beaver, Pa.	40°41°10"	80 ⁰ 15'45"	720,000	1200	1210	(1)
20	Allegheny	New Kensington W., Pa.	40°32'42"	79046102"		1600	1306	(2)
21	Allegheny	New Kensington W., Pa.	40032113"	79047136"		1700	1306	(2); "spans" river(3)
22 71	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40°25′9"	80 ⁰ 57'21"	000,096	1600	1320	(2); "spans" river(3)
23	Monongahela	Braddock, Pa.	40 ⁰ 22'43"	79 ⁰ 50'37"	000,009	800	1311	
24	Monongahela	Braddock, Pa.	40 ₀ 22'29"	79°50'24"	000,009	1200	1311	Two thermal levels
25	Monongahela	McKeesport, Pa.	40°22'15"	79°50'24"	720,000	1200	1310	(2)
26	Monongahela	McKeesport, Pa.	40 <mark>0</mark> 22'10"	79°50123"	640,000	800	1309	
27	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40°24'51"	79 ⁰ 54'29"	40,000	700	1321	
28	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40 ⁰ 23'54"	79 ⁰ 55'42"	140,000	1400	1321	(1)
29 Jt:	Monongahela	Pittsburgh E., Pa.	40024,30"	"20'72 ⁰ 67	1,400,000	1800	1325	Two thermal leyels
30	Monongahela	McKeesport, Pa.	40°21°18"	79 ⁰ 51'13"	160,000	700	1332	
31	Monongahela	Glassport, Pa.	40°20°15"	79°53'42"	120,000	009	1337	
32	Monongahela	McKeesport, Pa.	40°17'42"	79 ⁰ 52'06"	40,000	400	1338	
33	Monongahela	Glassport, Pa.	40°18'34"	79 ⁰ 52'54"	240,000	009	1337	
34	Monongahela	McKeesport, Pa.	40 <mark>0</mark> 17'18"	79 ⁰ 52'25"	400,000	800	1341	Two thermal levels
35	Monongahela	Glassport, Pa.	40 ₀ 15'10"	79 ⁰ 55'00"	480,000	1200	1343	
36	Monongahela	Monongahela, Pa.	40 ⁰ 13'21"	79°58°16"	720,000	1600	1352	
(1)								

Questionable if discharge is actually present.
 Thermal area evident; exact discharge location in question.
 Warmer effluent extends from one river bank to other.



SECTION V

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Aerial infrared surveying can readily detect and delineate the presence and surface extent of discharges into rivers by displaying on permanent film record a map-like presentation of surface temperature.
- 2. This technique can be applied day or night but is limited in inclement weather conditions.
- 3. Documentation of this type can be obtained in a confidential manner.
- 4. Absolute water surface temperature to $1^{\circ}F$ accuracies in contour map presentation is attainable by this method.
- 5. Large areas can be screened rapidly via infrared surveillance.
- 6. The equipment and techniques utilized are quite sophisticated, and good quality data are not obtained easily. Attaining and maintaining operational status is difficult and costly.

It is recommended that personnel from Region III, Surveillance and Analysis, share available or newly acquired information related to these interpreted discharges with NERC-LV. A short field check to selected sites, made jointly, would be helpful toward improving future similar efforts.

Any recommendations by Regional personnel geared to improving these aerial reconnaissance surveys are solicited and necessary for development of a viable technique.



APPENDIX A

PROJECT PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT (#N89.6)

Name

R. Landers

M. Smith

J. Schmidt

C. Lake, W. Fowler

B. Spavin, W. Fowler

G. Niles

A. Pressman

Grumman Mohawk OV-1C

HRB Singer AN/AAS-14A

Kodak Versamat 11C-M

LogEtronic SP10/70-B

Miller-Holzworth EN88A

Function

Mission Manager

Pilot

IR Scanner Engineer

Film Processing, Printing

Graphics

Data Compilation

Data Analysis, Report

Aircraft

Infrared Scanner

Roll Film Processor

Roll Paper Printer

Image Scale Adjustment



APPENDIX B

QUADRANGLE MAPS SHOWING DISCHARGES; 11 MAPS

Di	S	ch	aı	g	e	No	

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 22, 27, 28, 29

9, 10

11, 12, 13, 14

15, 16, 19

17

18

20, 21

23, 24

25, 26, 30, 32, 34

31, 33, 35

36

Map

Pittsburgh East, PA

Ambridge, PA

Baden, PA

Beaver, PA

Midland, PA

Hookstown, PA

New Kensington West, PA

Braddock, PA

McKeesport, PA

Glassport, PA

Monongahela, PA

1960
PHOTOREVISED 1 209
AMS 5084 IV NW-SERIES V831

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ROAD CLASSIFICATION PITTSBURGH EAST, PA NEW PITTSBURGH 19' QUADRANGUE N 4022 5-W7952 5/7 5 THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C. 202
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON R

