

## THE OPERATIONAL DESIGN ENVELOPE FOR THE STAs

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May 2004

### Executive Summary

The *Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins Long Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals* recommends structural, vegetative and operational enhancements for each STA, and provides a predicted range of long-term average outflow phosphorus concentrations once the enhancements are completed. Refinement of the operational strategies for the STAs is required to optimize the phosphorus removal performance of the STAs and to ensure that the STAs are not subject to overload from inflow volume or nutrients. In addition, assessment of annual or long-term performance is aided by a comparison of actual loading to the loading that was anticipated during the design of the treatment areas, and the subsequent design of the STA enhancements. This paper develops the “operational design envelope” for inflow volume and phosphorus loads that were anticipated for each STA, and recommends a method for utilizing the resulting information to assist in tactical operational decisions.

### Background

Part 2 of the *Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins Long Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals* (Long-Term Plan) describes specific structural, vegetation and operational enhancements for each STA needed to optimize phosphorus reduction performance (Burns and McDonnell 2003). Part 4 of the Long-Term Plan presents the predicted range of long-term average phosphorus concentrations for each STA based on simulation results using the DMSTA model (Walker and Kadlec 2003). As input, the DMSTA simulations utilized baseline data sets developed for each of the tributary basins. These data sets quantified site-specific assumptions regarding runoff quantity, water quality, Lake Okeechobee releases and other factors (Goforth and Piccone 2001). In order to improve the accuracy of these data sets, they will be updated at two-year intervals beginning in FY05; the initial update is underway.

The original conceptual design of the STAs was based on a first-order phosphorus removal model that used 10-year average annual values of inflow volumes, phosphorus concentrations, rainfall, ET, and an estimate of the removal characteristics of the treatment area (Walker 1995). The 10-year average annual flows and loads used for each STA in the 1994 Conceptual Design (Table 1) tend to mask the temporal characteristics of the inflows. For example, it is impossible to portray the seasonal characteristic of the inflows based on the 10-year average annual flow. Hence, there was little reference against which actual seasonal and annual flows/loads, and resulting STA performance, could be assessed. Similarly, there was limited ability to provide operational guidance for

30-day targets or discretionary water management measures, particularly the timing and magnitude of Lake Okeechobee releases.

**Table 1. Initial Design Assumptions for the STAs  
(excludes BMP replacement water)**

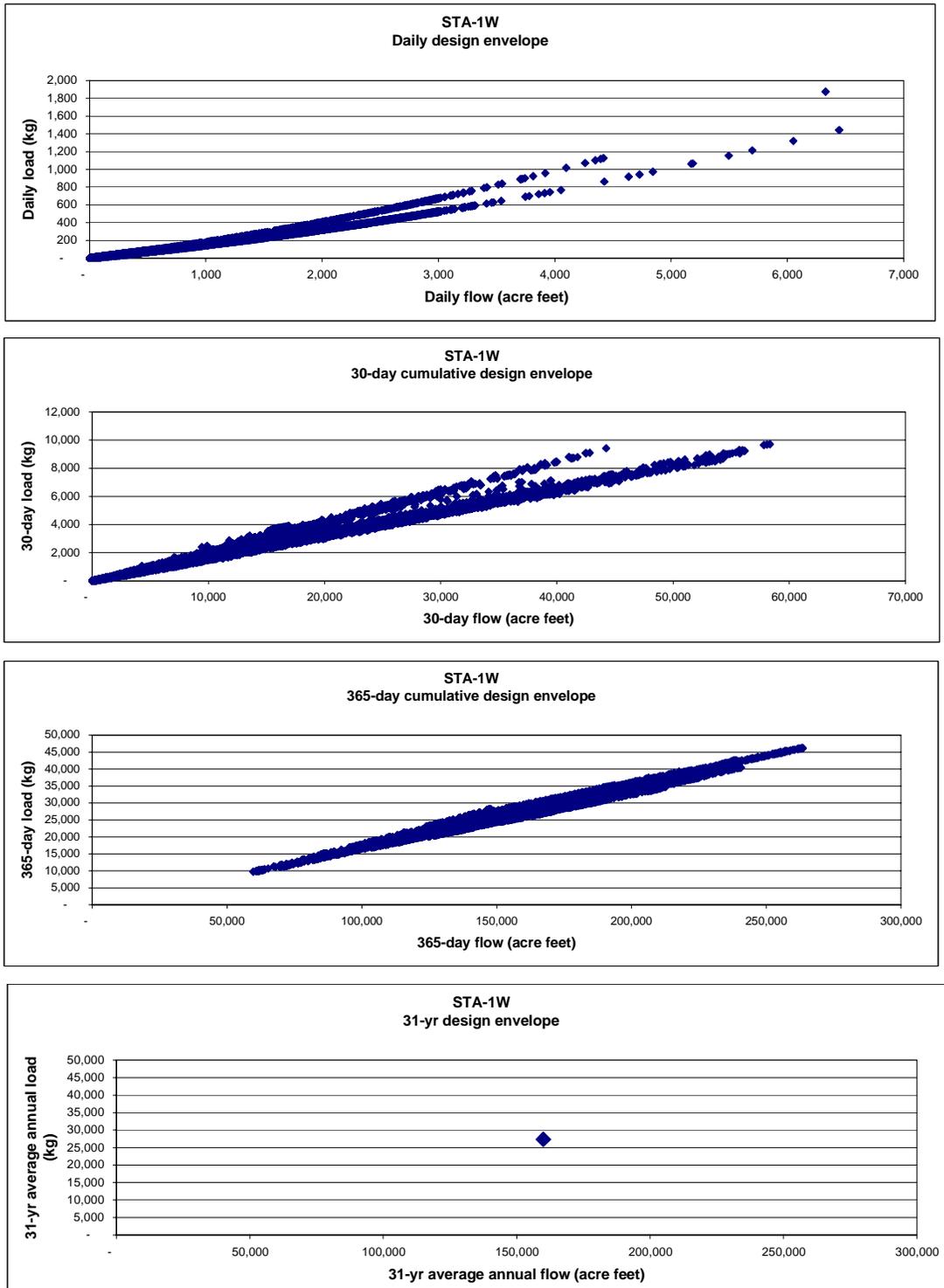
<b>STA</b>	<b>10-yr Average Annual Flow (acre feet/yr)</b>	<b>10-yr Average Annual Phosphorus Load (kg/yr)</b>
STA-1E	124,876	29,442
STA-1W	142,853	37,701
STA-2	174,641	33,764
STA-3/4	604,753	87,200
STA-5	87,000	28,000
STA-6 Section 1	18,034	4,388

From Conceptual Design (Burns and McDonnell 1994)

In contrast, the more recent design of the STA enhancements and projections of performance in the Long-Term Plan were based on a dynamic model utilizing a 31-year set of simulated daily flows and phosphorus loads, rainfall and ET. The range of daily, monthly, annual and total inflow flows and phosphorus loads varied considerably over this 31-year period, as demonstrated for STA-1W in Figure 1. Figure 1 displays the range of simulated phosphorus loads plotted as a function of the simulated inflow volumes, and demonstrates the different amount of operating information as a function of the temporal averaging scale. For example, as the averaging period decreases from 31 years to monthly, the maximum cumulative flow does not decrease linearly. In fact, the maximum monthly flow is more than twice the 31-year period average annual flow divided by 12. The top panel in Figure 1 demonstrates the assumed underlying relationship between inflow loads and inflow volumes, which was based on a daily regression relationship, where the upper curves reflects the relationship during the dry season and the lower curve reflects the relationship during the wet season (see Goforth and Piccone 2001 for details on the development of this regression relationship.)

These findings reflect significant differences in the operating climate of the STAs that must be taken into account to ensure effective long-term operation of the STAs. This paper describes a method to provide tactical (e.g., monthly) operational guidance to ensure that the STAs are operated within their design envelope to the maximum extent practicable. The Long-Term Plan recognizes the need to develop STA operational support and related operating strategies in *Part 5 – Process Development and Engineering under Analysis and Interpretation* (see page 5-14), and in *Part 8 – Operation Maintenance and Monitoring under Program Management* (see page 8-12).

Figure 1. Design envelopes for STA-1W across different temporal scales (includes BMP replacement water)



## Method

The basis for developing design envelopes for each STA was the inflow data sets used in the Basin-Specific Feasibility Studies (Burns and McDonnell 2002). These data sets consisted of 31 years of simulated daily flows and associated phosphorus loads for basins tributary to each STA. For most of the STAs, the flows were generated from a baseline South Florida Water Management Model (SFWMM) simulation, while for STA-5 and STA-6, a combination of actual and simulated inflows were used. In their baseline data report, Goforth and Piccone (2001) describe the method used to develop a corresponding daily phosphorus load.

The method used for developing graphical and tabular design envelopes for each STA is described below.

1. Using the daily input values, cumulative monthly and annual flows and loads were calculated.
2. For each month, the minimum, average, and maximum **monthly** value over the 31 years was determined.
3. Similarly, for each month, the minimum, average, and maximum **annual** value over the 31 years was determined.
4. Similarly, for each month, the minimum, average, and maximum **3-year** value over the 31 years was determined.
5. For each duration, 10% and 90% values were determined.
6. The results were plotted and presented in tabular form for each STA.

## Results

A summary of the average annual inflows and loads to each STA is presented in Table 2. Detailed results for each STA are presented in Appendices 1-6.

Table 2. 31-Year Average Annual Flows and Loads to Each STA

	STA-1E	STA-1W	STA-2	STA-3/4	STA-5	STA-6
Area (acres)	5,350	6,670	6,430	16,543	4,118	2,370
Average Annual Inflow (acre feet)	132,288	159,985	232,759	657,168	129,083	37,442
Hydraulic Loading Rate (cm/day)	2.06	2.00	3.02	3.32	2.62	1.32
Average Annual Load (kg)	28,759	27,372	28,800	71,591	28,209	3,999
Nutrient Loading Rate (grams/sq m/year)	1.33	1.01	1.11	1.07	1.69	0.42

## Application

The operational design envelopes presented in the appendices can be used to track the status of each STA relative to long-term cumulative inflow volumes and loads. This information will form a basis to assist with monthly operational decisions and keep the STAs solidly within their design envelopes.

1. Actual monthly, annual and triennial cumulative flows and phosphorus loads are monitored for each STA. Presently, flow data are available approximately 4-6 weeks after field measurement. Efforts are underway to streamline data processing and reduce this lag time. Estimates of phosphorus loads depend on this flow data, so phosphorus loads are also approximately 4-6 weeks behind collection dates. Phosphorus concentration data are available from the District's laboratory within about one week of sampling.
2. Comparison of actual flows and loads to the monthly, annual and triennial ranges presented in the appendices will be made monthly. If deviations are observed, an immediate evaluation of the causes of the deviations should be conducted. Options for bringing the flows and loads back in the range depicted in the operational design envelopes should be identified, evaluated and implemented.
3. For discretionary operations, such as Lake Okeechobee releases and inter-basin transfer of water (when available), the monthly, annual and triennial cumulative values can be utilized to provide guidance.

### Lake Okeechobee release example:

Flow-way 1 of STA-3/4 began flow-through operation in February 2004. This flow-way contains approximately 6,500 acres, or about 40% of the STA's total effective treatment area. A target for Lake releases during the month of March was obtained from the cumulative monthly design envelope. The 31-year average of simulated flow into STA-3/4 during March is 46,759 acre feet (see appendix 4). Assuming uniform distribution through the flow-ways, approximately 40%, or 18,420 acre feet was set as the target for flow-way 1. This equates to about 300 cfs. Since the STA was still in stabilization, the average value was selected, as opposed to the maximum value, which would have been 82,831 acre feet during the month. Had the STA been in operation for the previous 12 months, we could compare the cumulative actual flow/load with the simulated range and use the lower of the 12-month cumulative or monthly cumulative balance. For example, had the previous 11-month cumulative flow been 620,000 acre feet (assuming the entire STA was operational), the balance available to reach the average annual inflow volume would be  $(655,853 - 620,000 =) 35,853$  acre

feet. Since this is less than the March average of 46,759 acre feet, the target for discretionary releases would be 35,853 acre feet.

Another application of these operational design envelopes is in assessing each water year's performance for each STA relative to the design assumptions.

### **Future Refinements**

The values presented in the appendices will be updated upon completion of the updated input data sets, which are presently underway and should be completed by September 2005 (see Long-Term Plan project *Update Baseline Data Sets* page 5-32). In addition, as regional storage reservoirs become operational, the operational design envelopes for effected STAs will be revised.

### **References**

Burns and McDonnell 1994. Everglades Protection Project Conceptual Design.

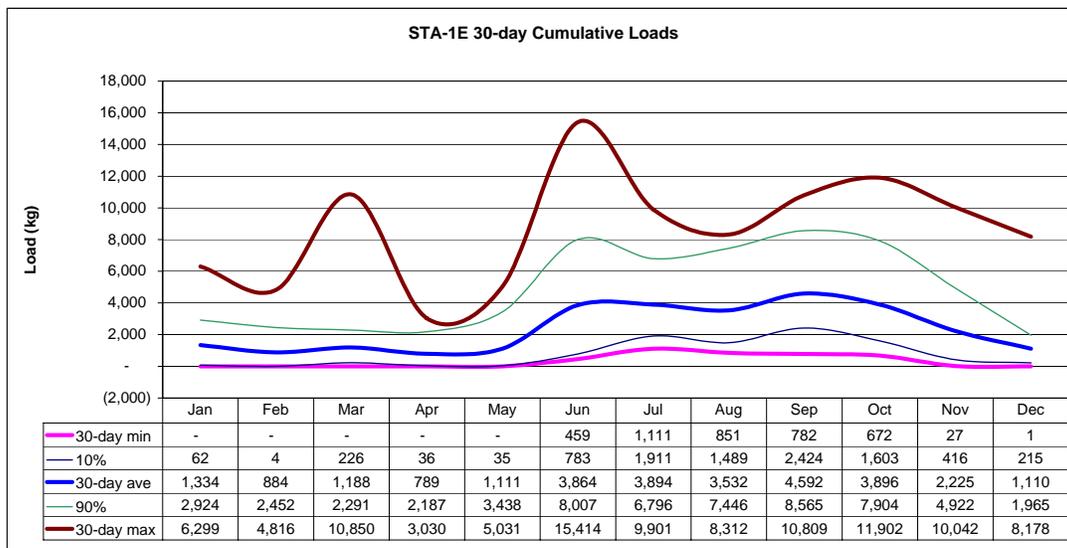
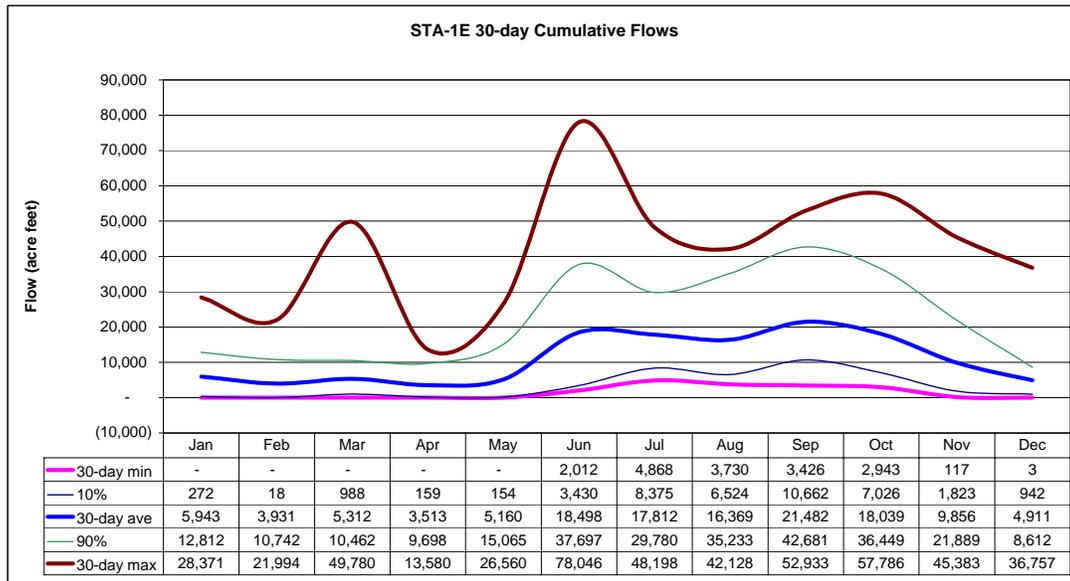
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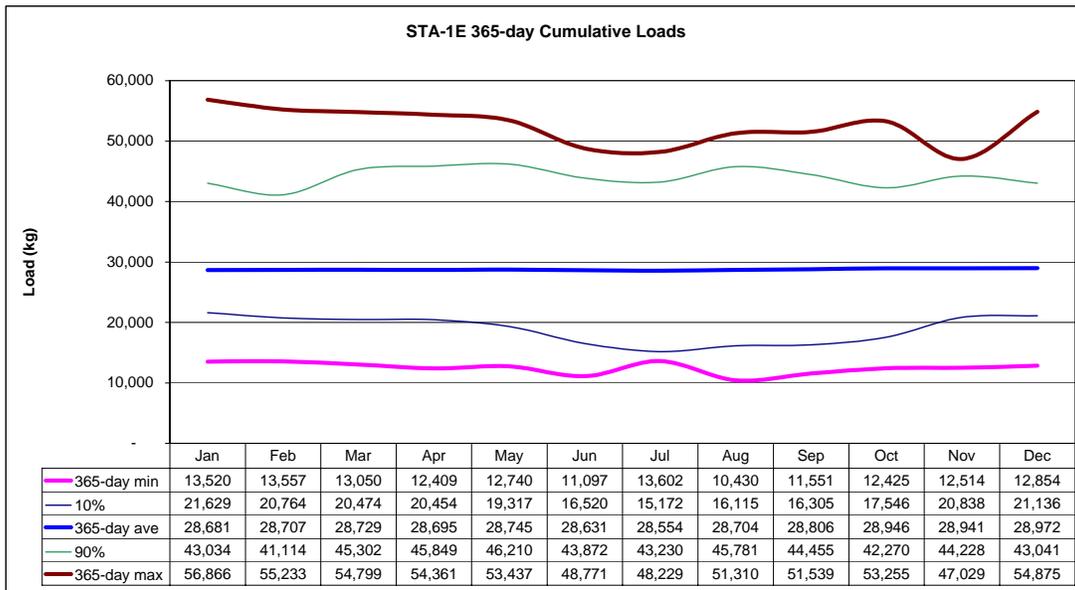
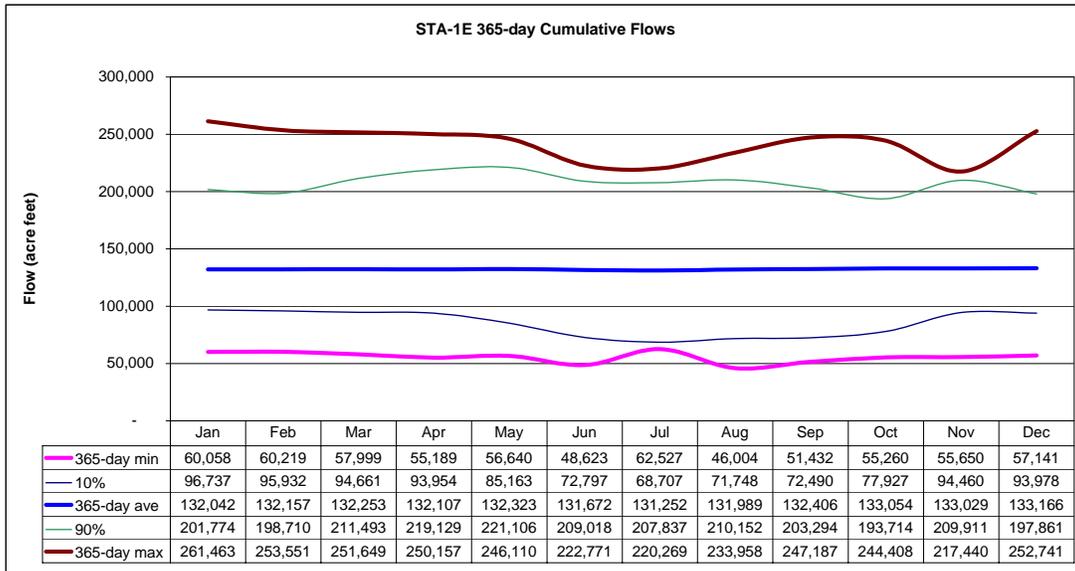
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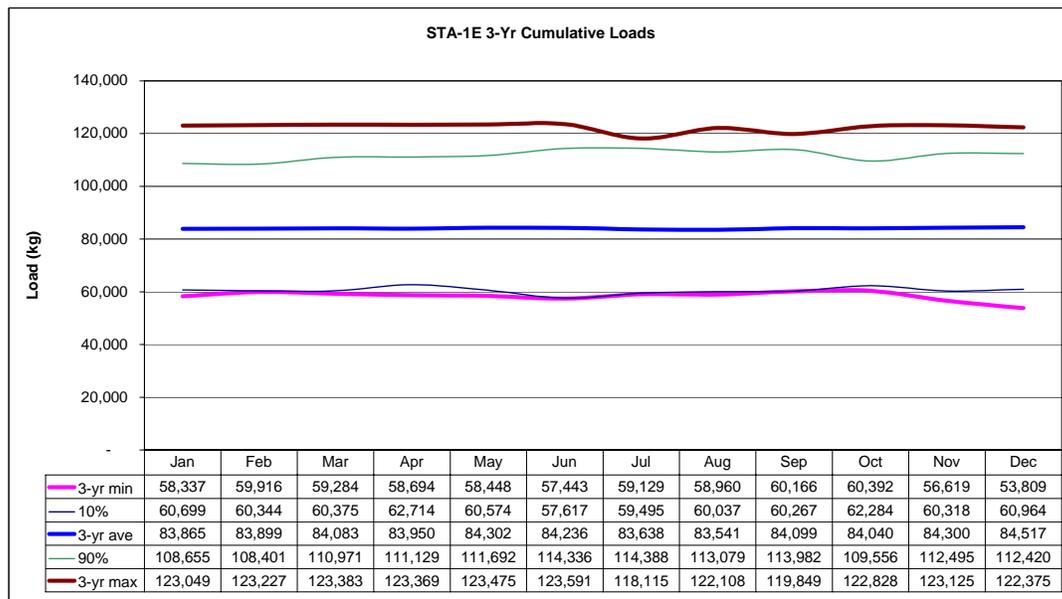
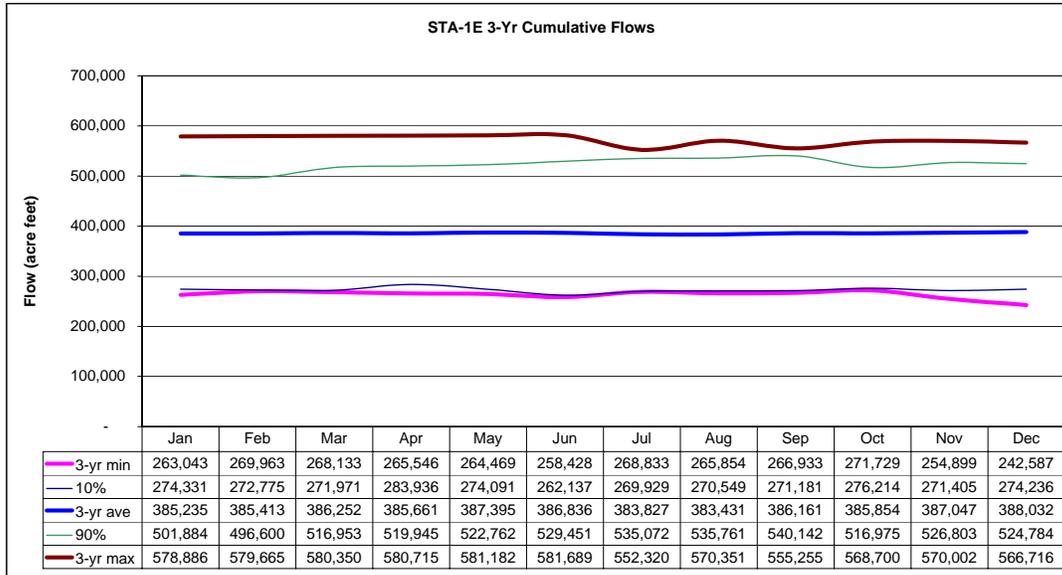
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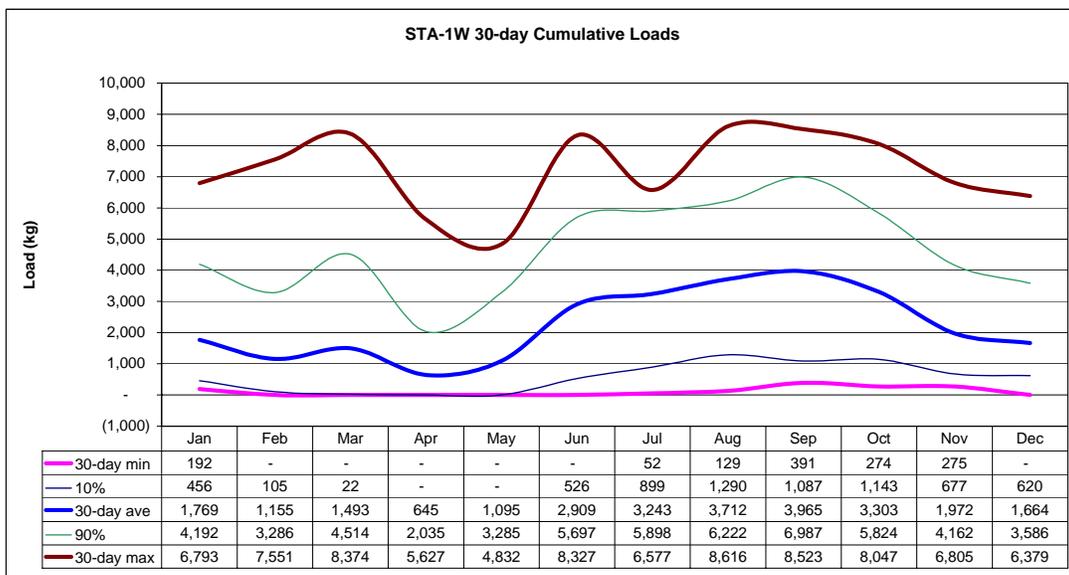
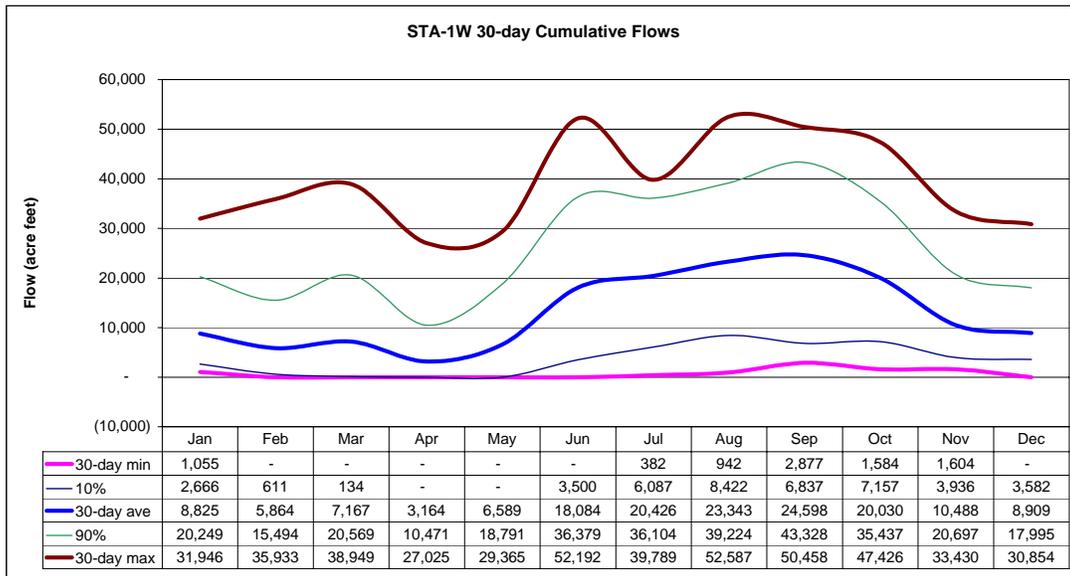
Appendix 1. Operating Design Envelope for STA-1E.

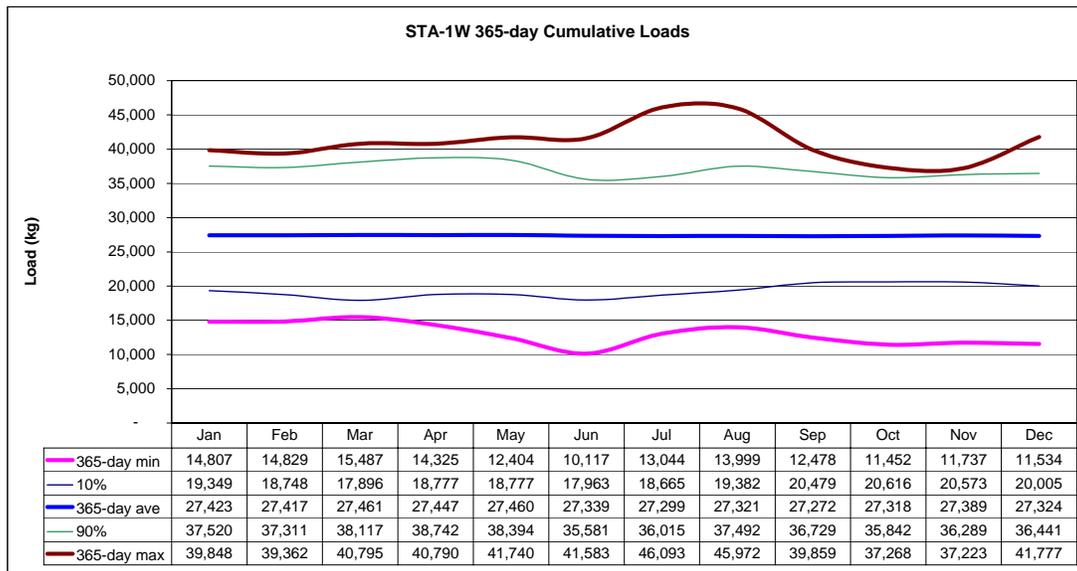
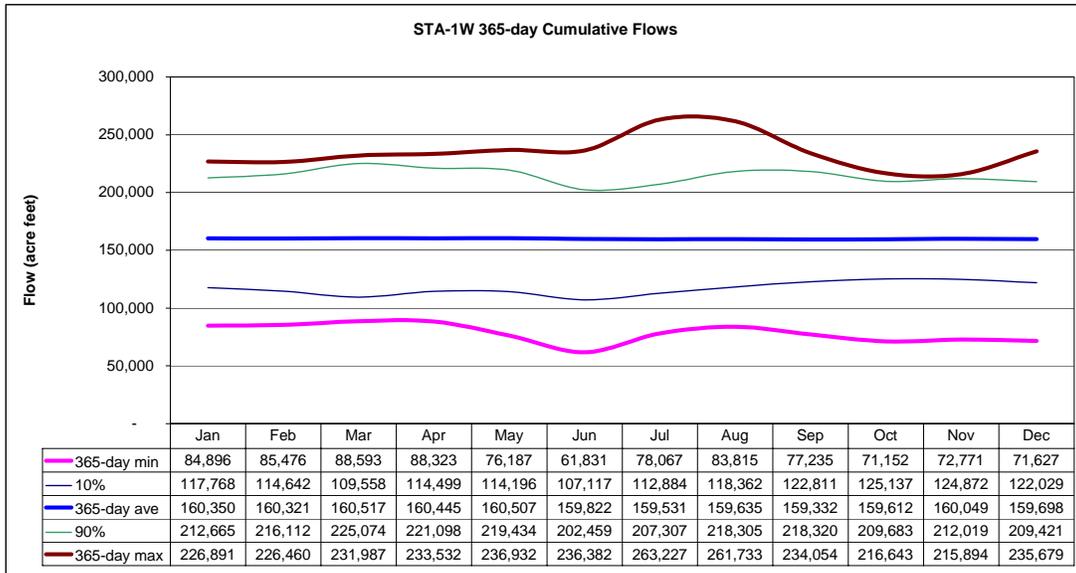


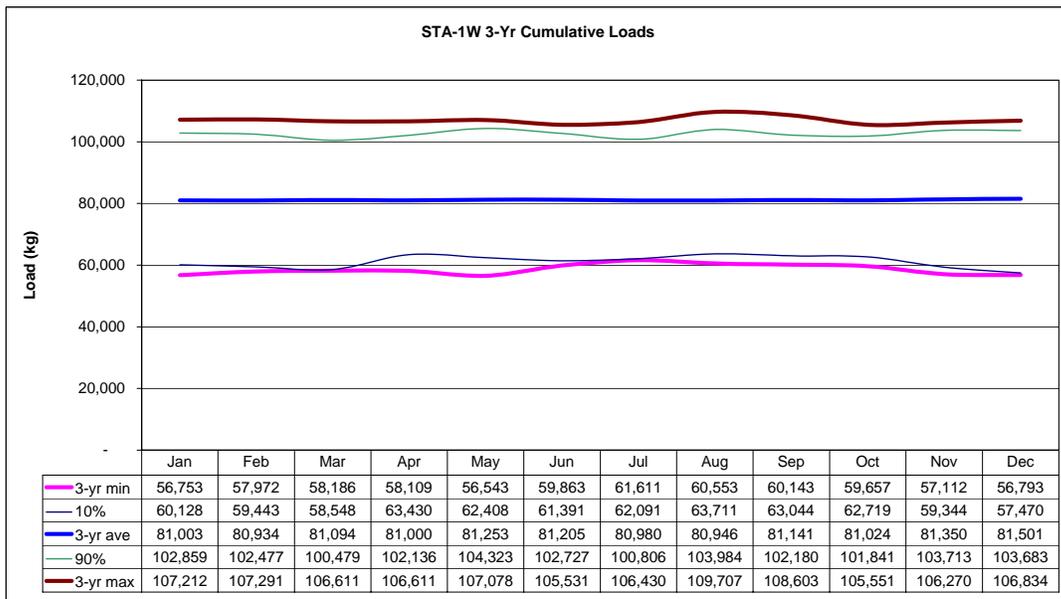
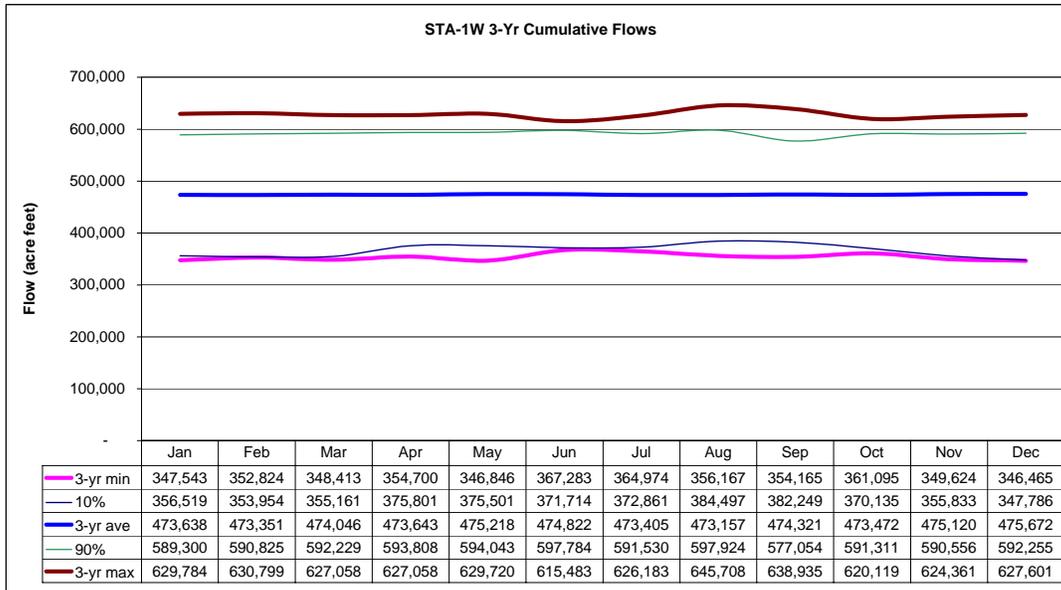




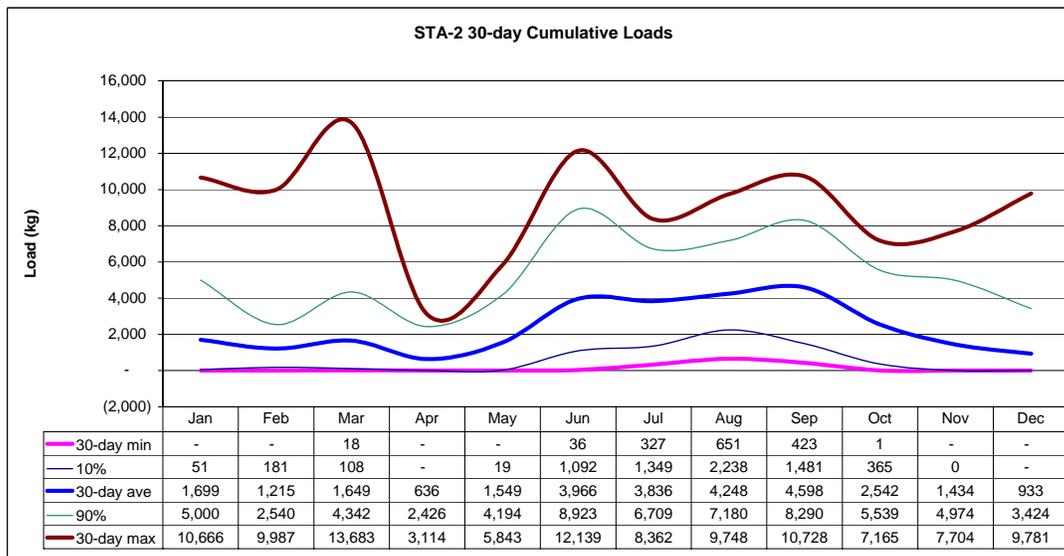
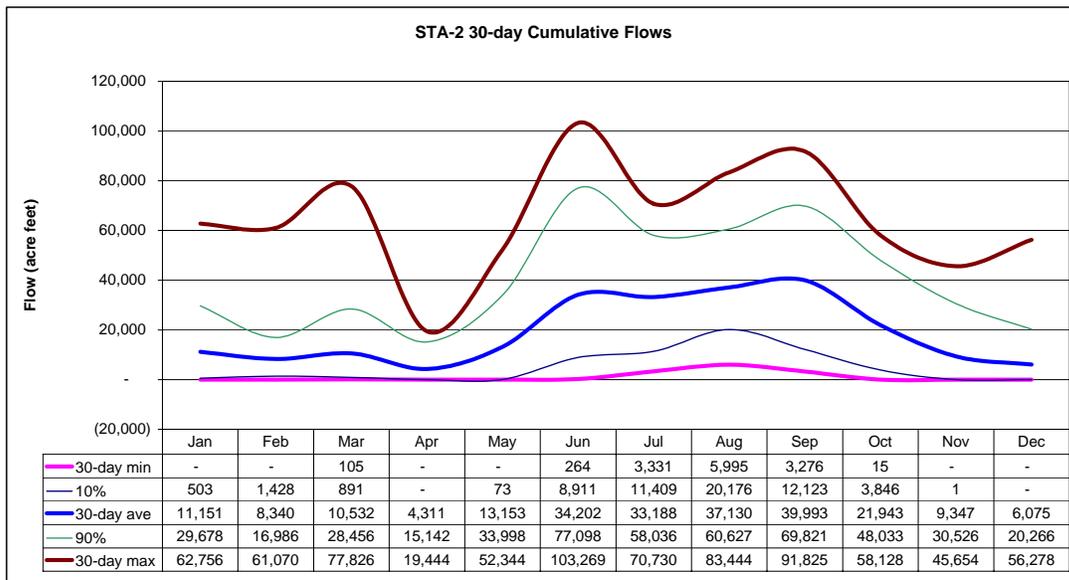
Appendix 2. Operating Design Envelope for STA-1W.

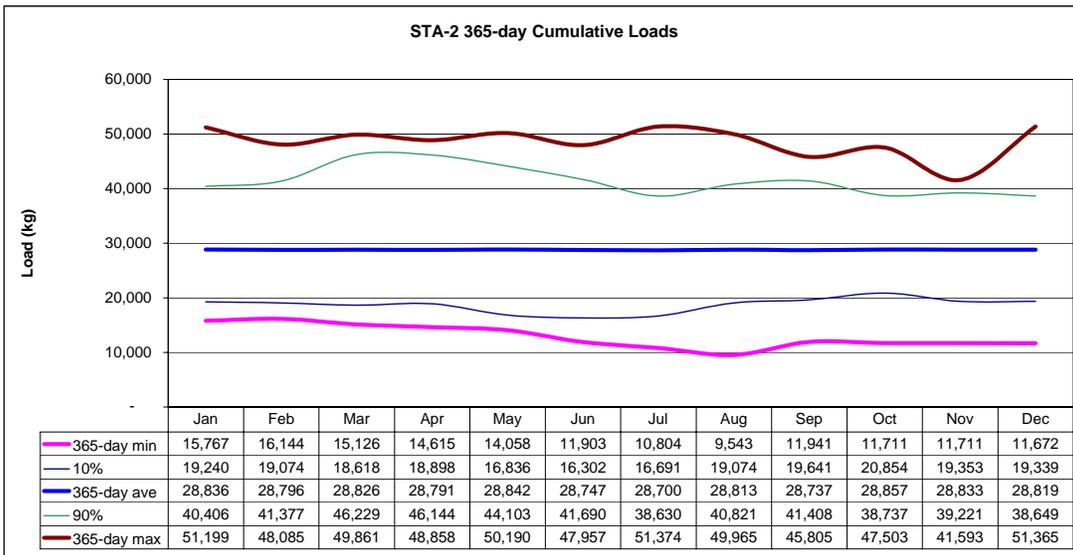
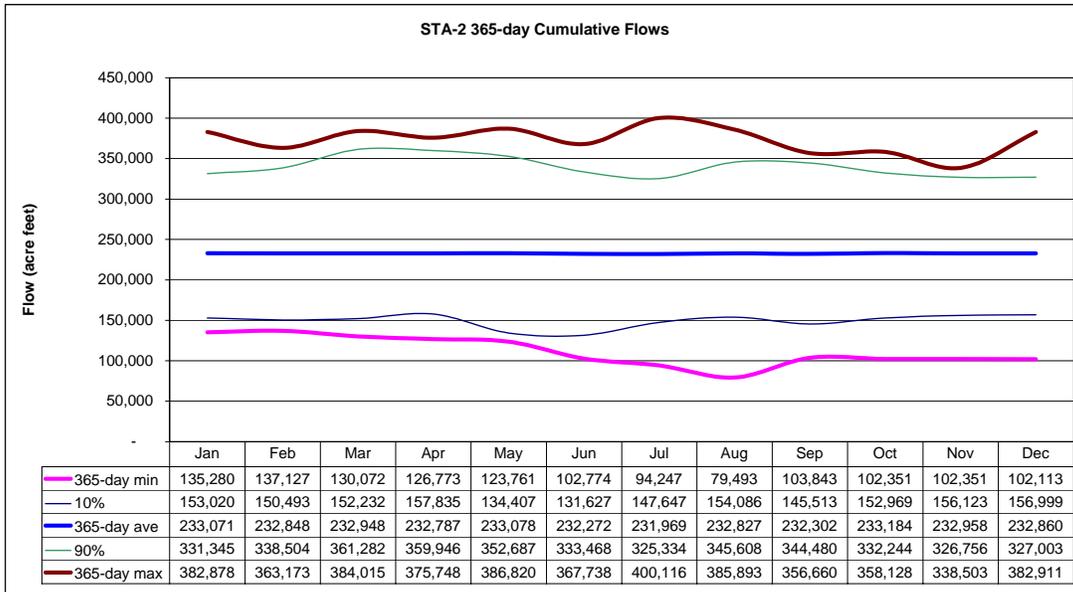


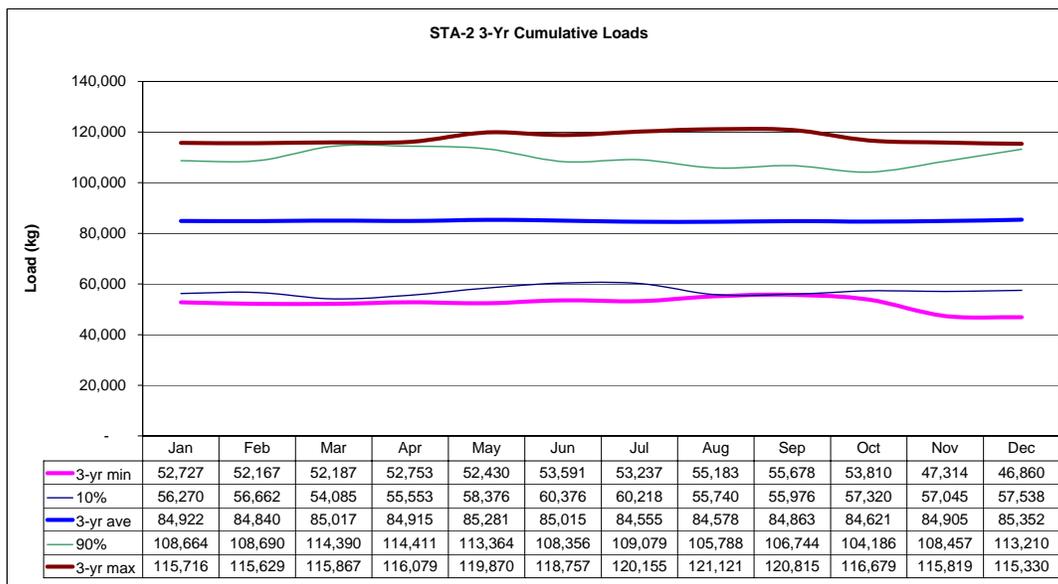
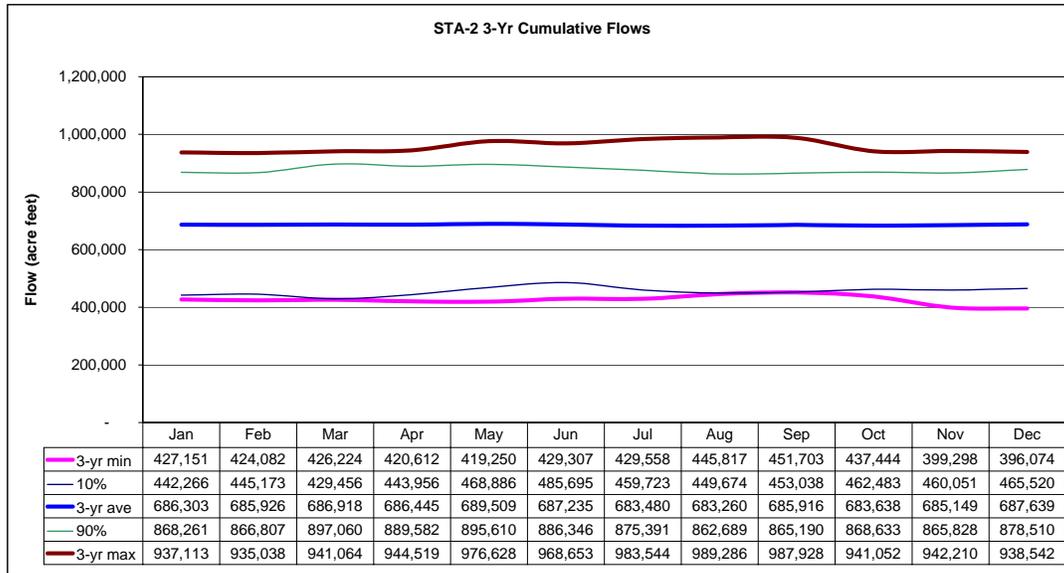




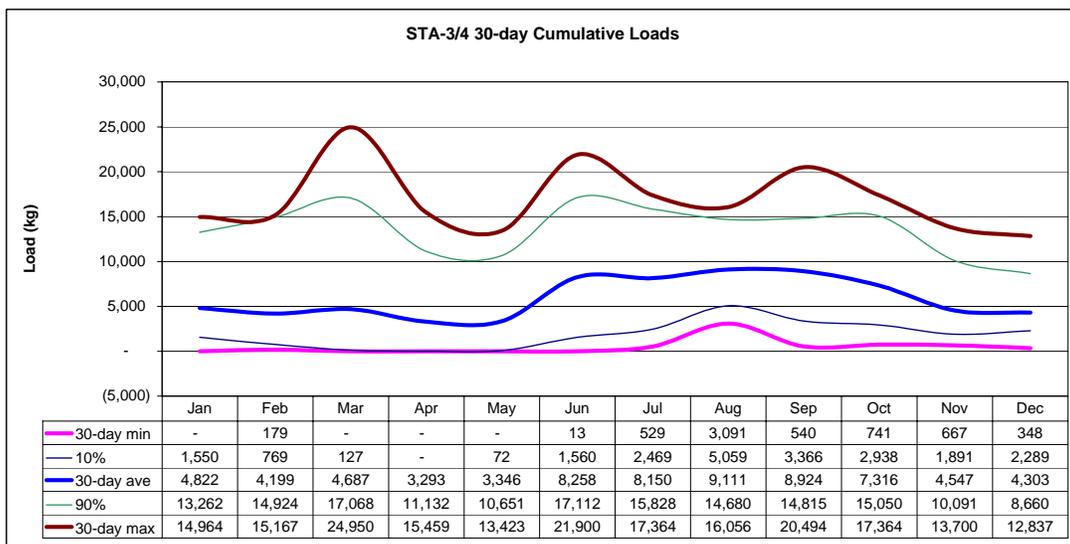
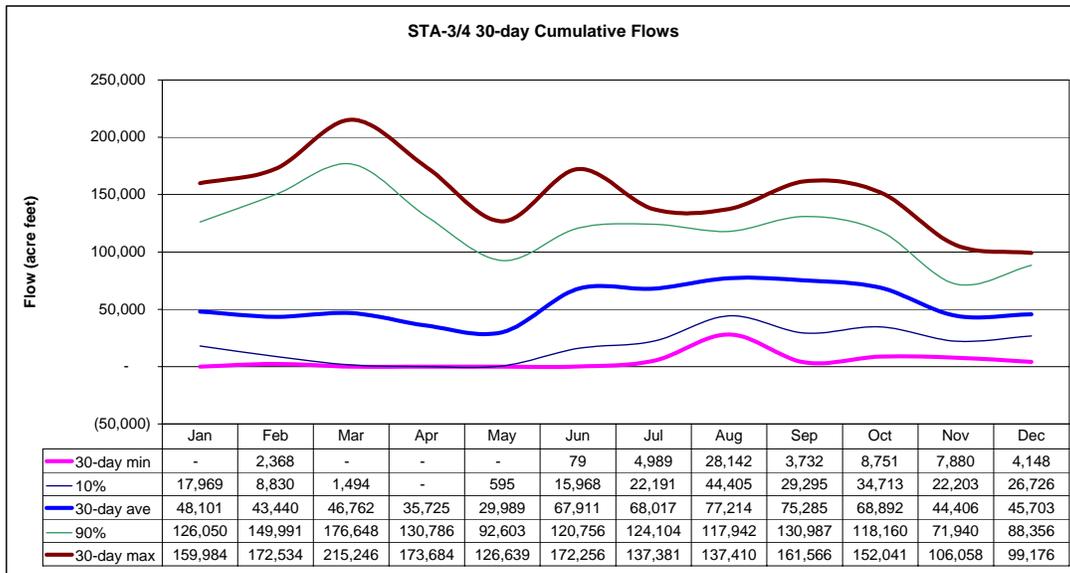
Appendix 3. Operating Design Envelope for STA-2.

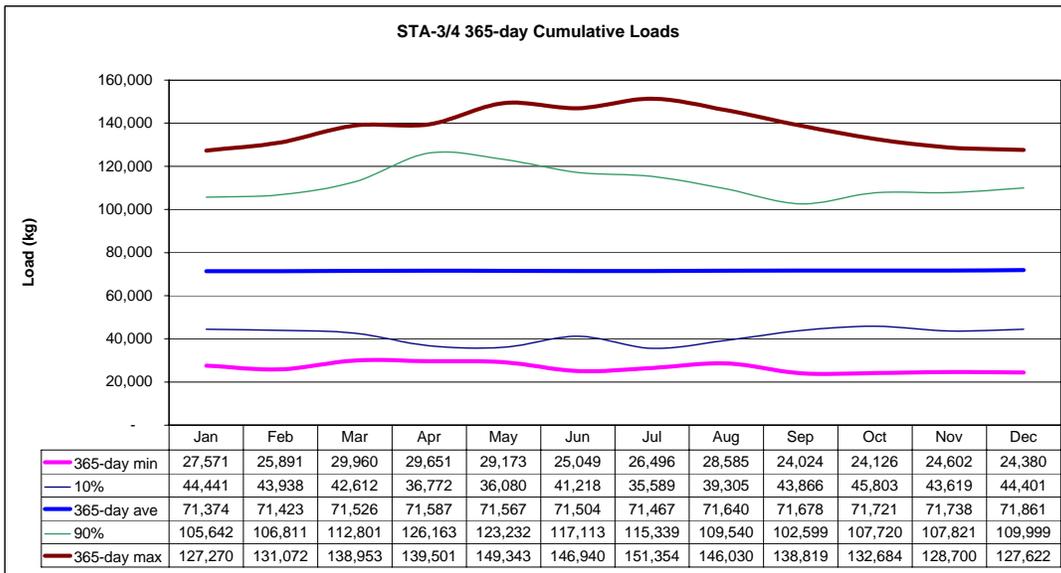
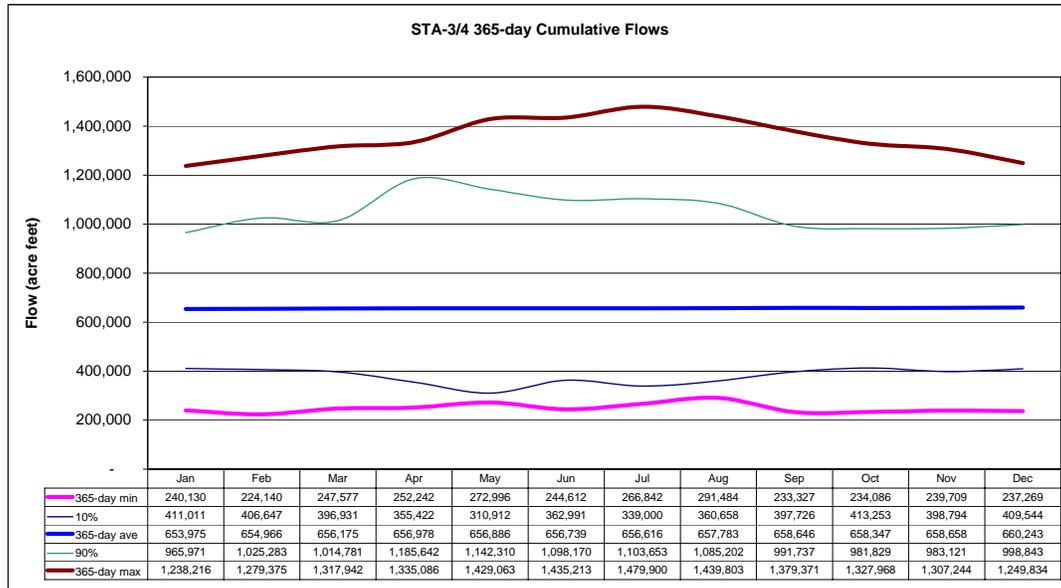


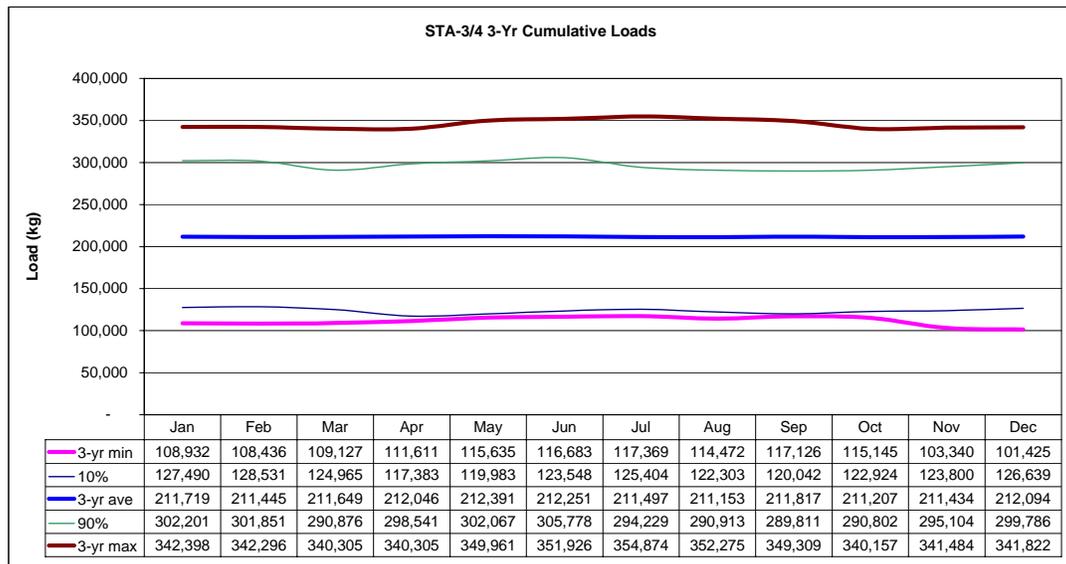
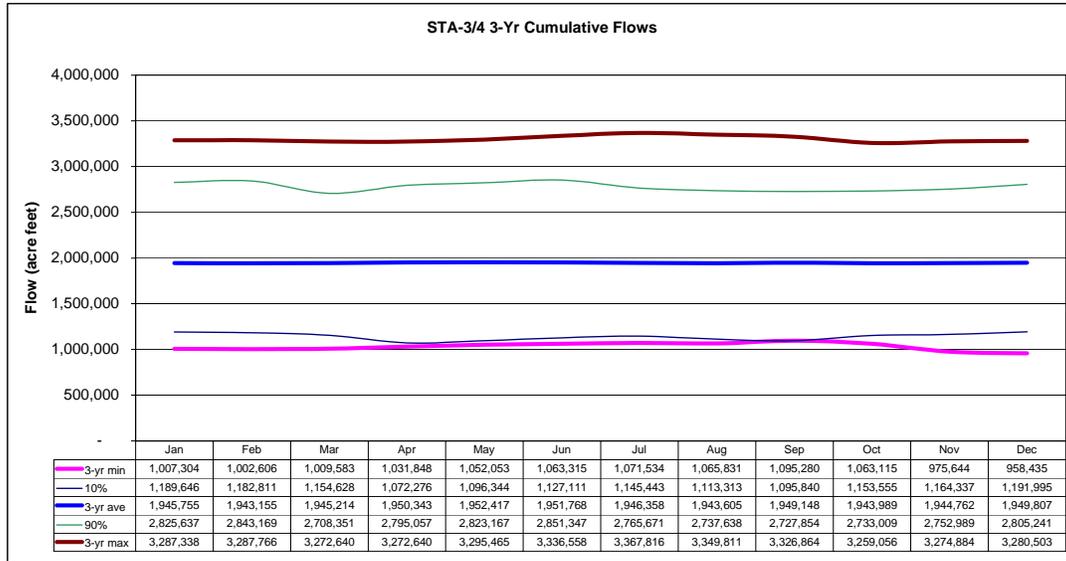




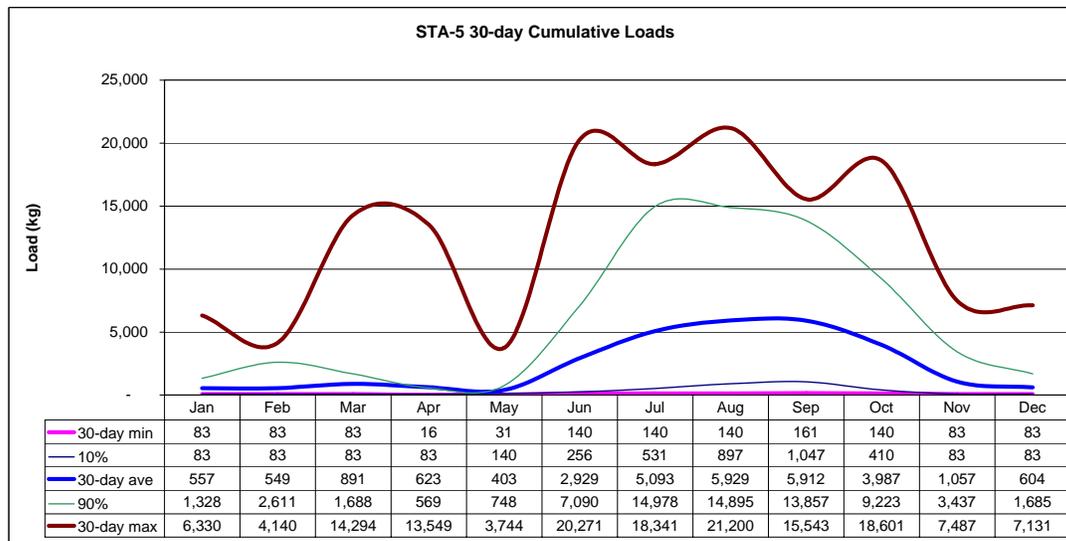
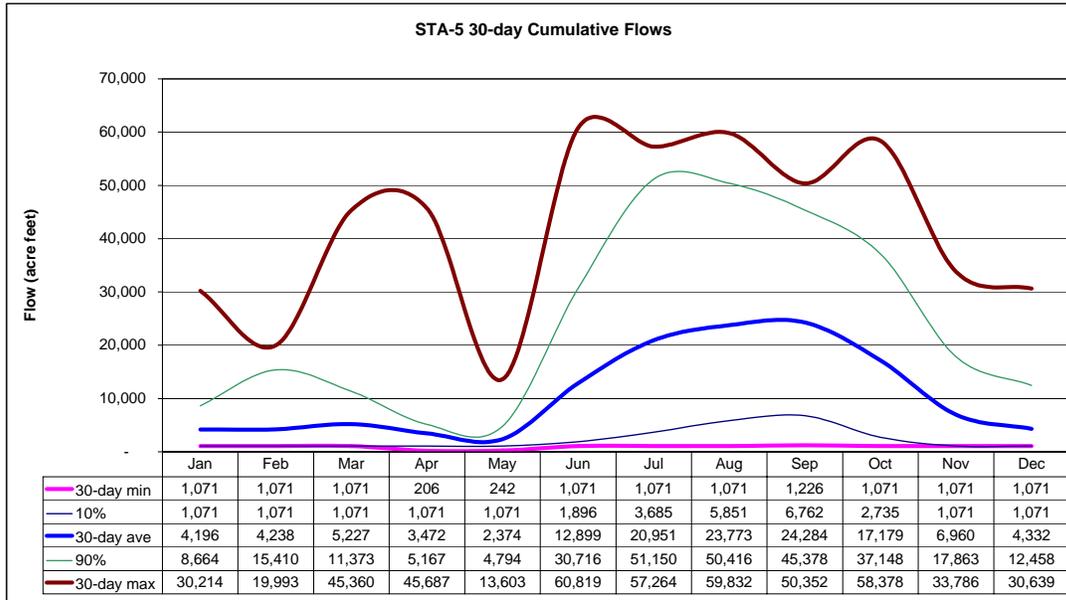
Appendix 4. Operating Design Envelope for STA-3/4.

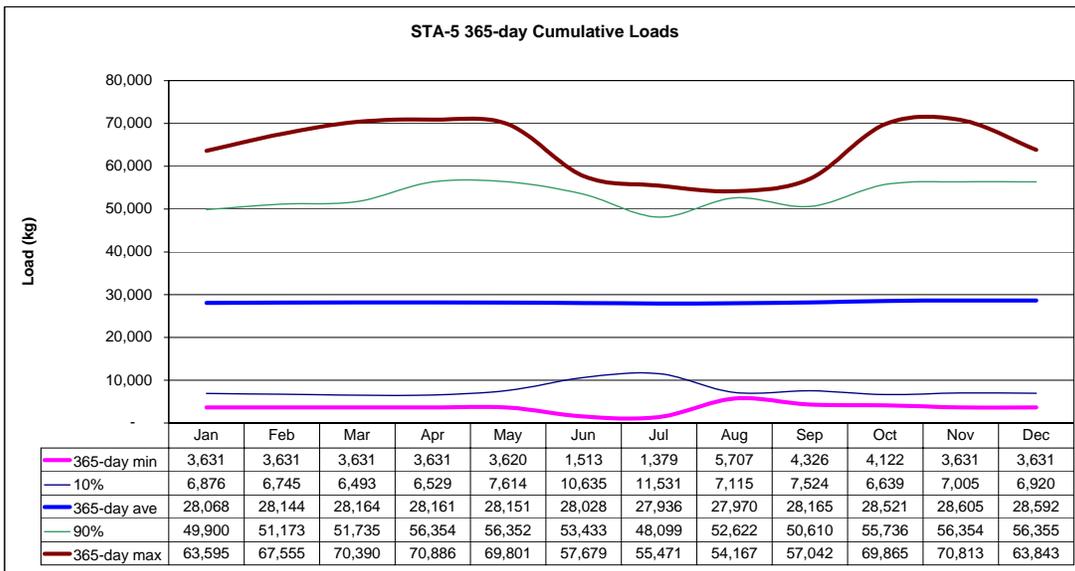
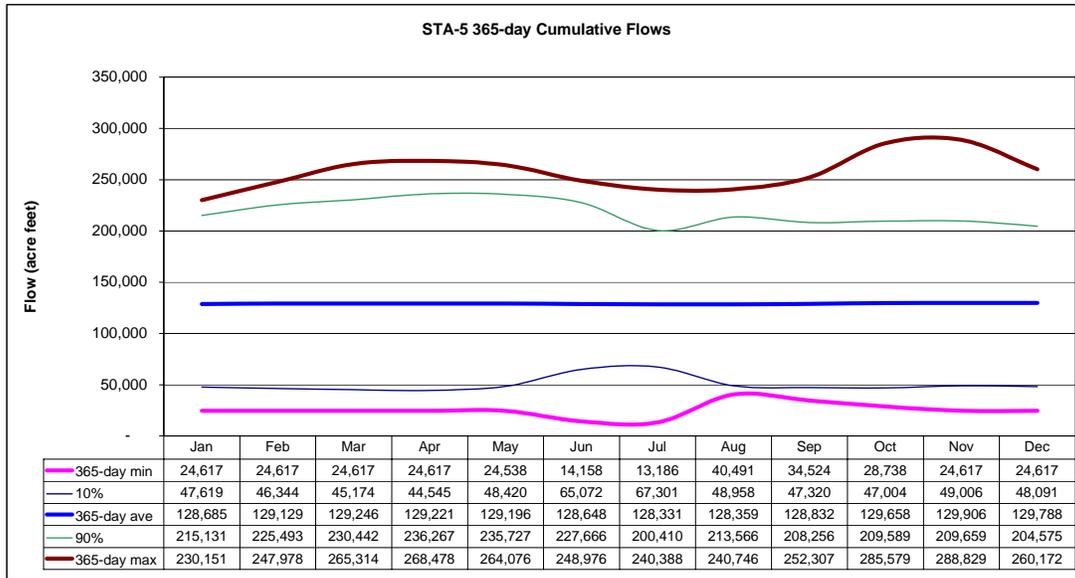


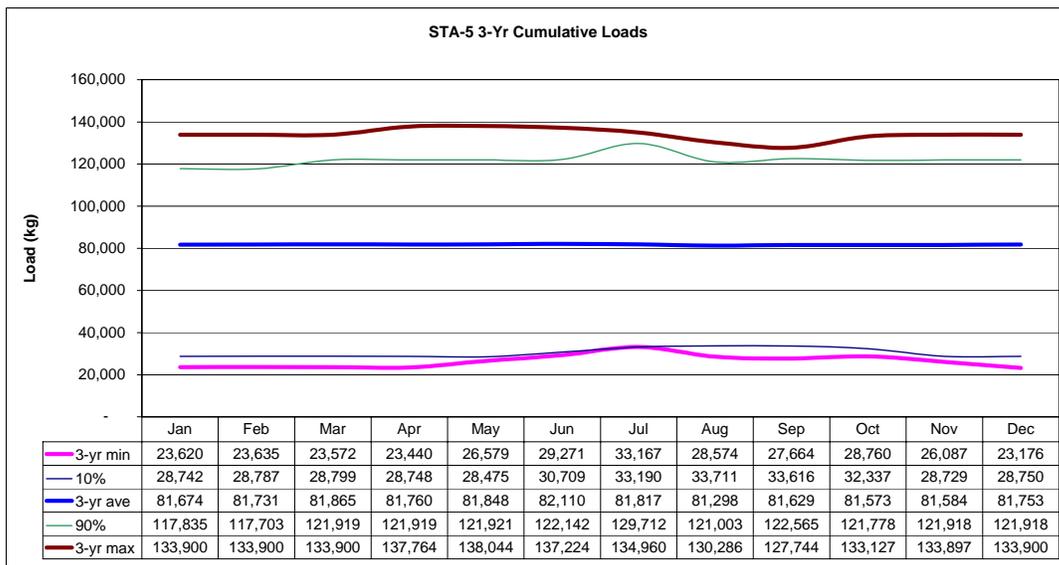
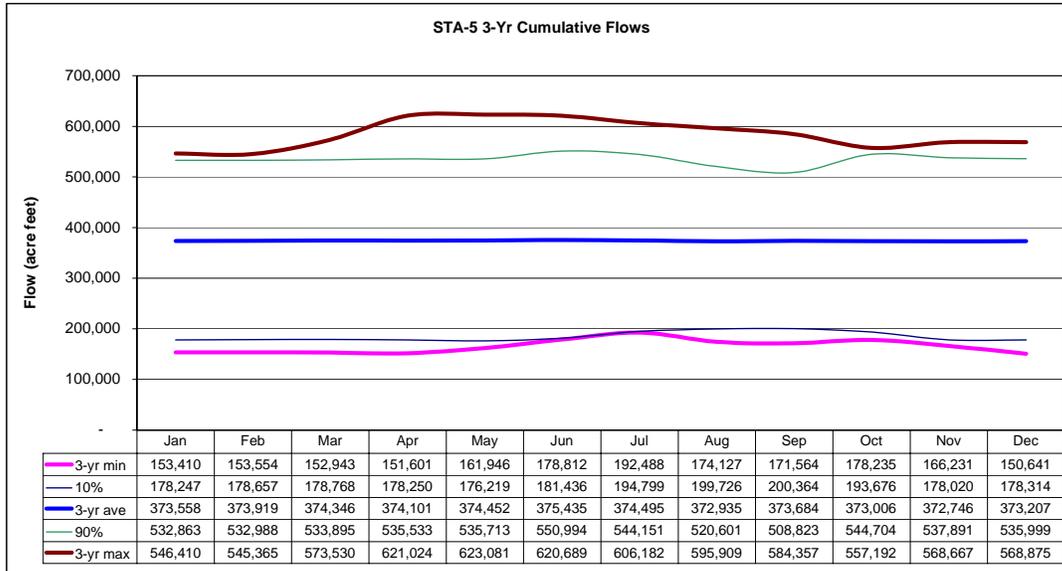




Appendix 5. Operating Design Envelope for STA-5.







Appendix 6. Operating Design Envelope for STA-6.

