



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor

Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update December 13, 2019

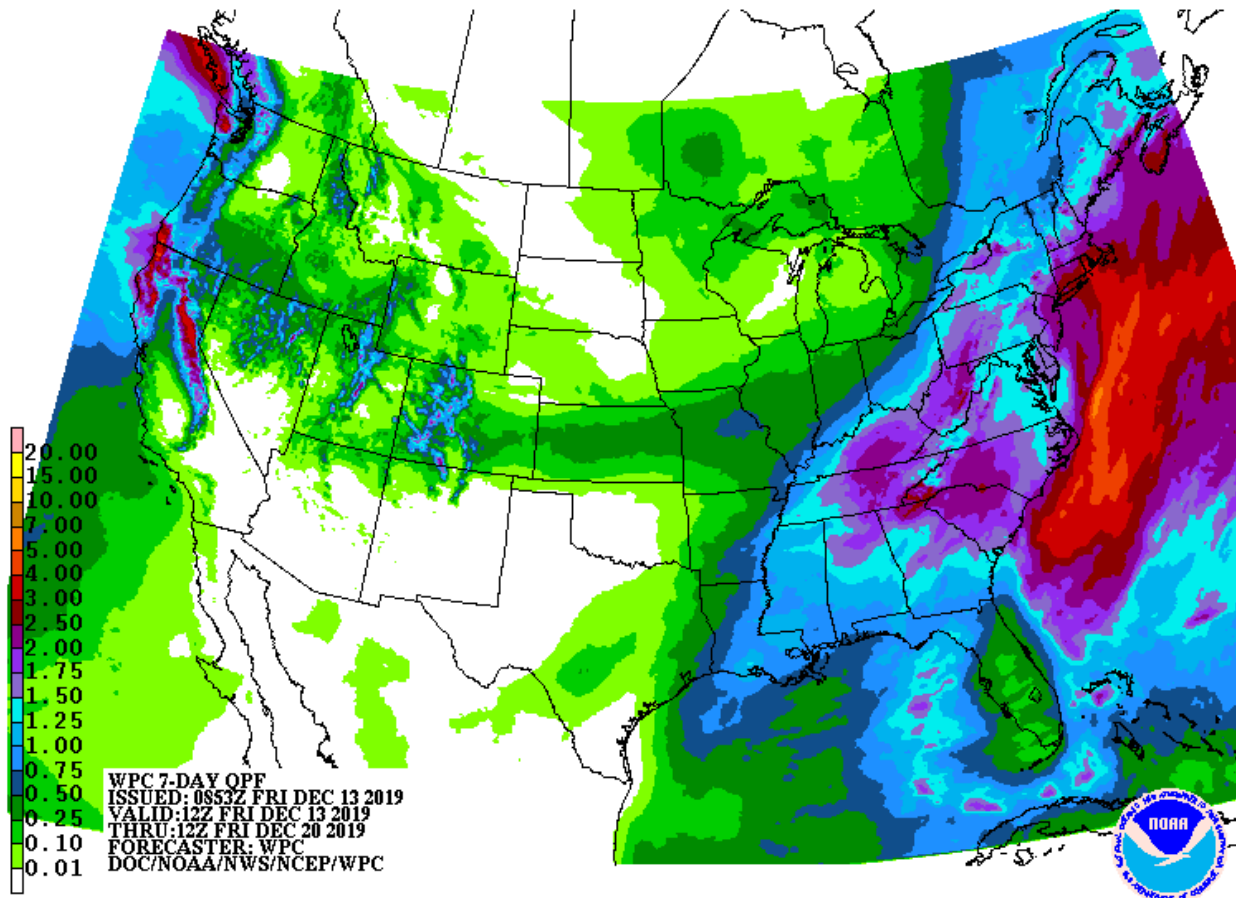
Current Conditions

Inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are 858 cfs and falling; flows on Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 262 cfs and falling. The Fox Lake stage is 3.27 ft and the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 2.61 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 7.73 ft. Please remember that the freezing air temperatures may affect the river gages.

Forecast and the Winter Outlook

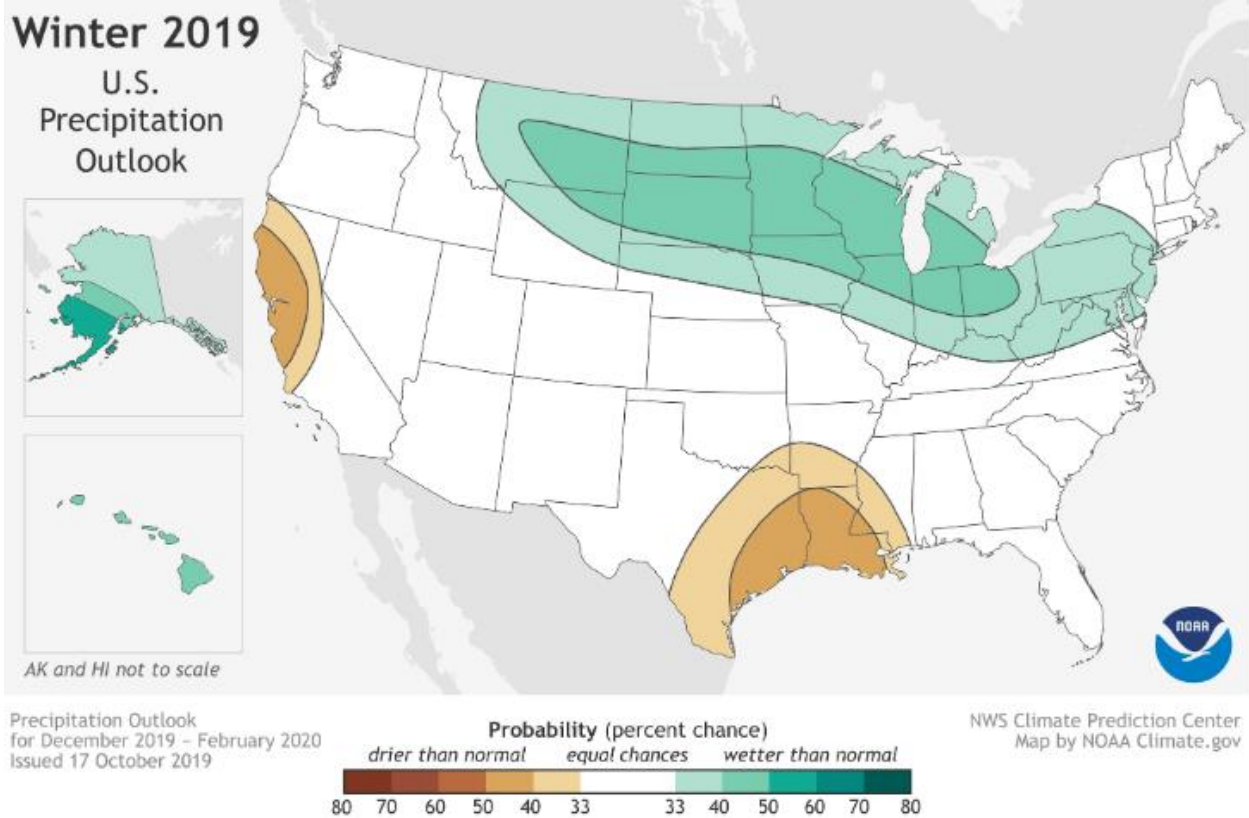
The National Weather Service (NWS) is predicting 0.01” to ¼” of precipitation for the next 7 days in the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 1.

Figure 1: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



The NWS is predicting wetter than normal precipitation from December 2019 through February 2020 across areas that already have wet soil and high river levels as depicted on Figure 2 below. This could result in a higher probability of flood events occurring in 2020.

Figure 2: Winter 2019 Outlook



System Conditions and Operations

Since November 7, 2019, all gates at the Stratton Dam (sluice gates completely out of the water) and Algonquin Dam have been opened to pass as much flow as possible. The goal was to achieve “winter drawdown” stage level of 2.5 ft in the Chain of Lakes (per the Operation Manual, February 2012) by December 1, 2019. However, efforts to achieve this level were hindered by high inflows that have been triple the average flows normally occurring this time of the year. This has been caused by intermittent precipitation events, snowmelt and a high groundwater table. The efforts to achieve the “winter drawdown” level will continue.

Munib Ahmad, P.E.

Office of Water Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/StrattonLockandDam.aspx>