ANNEXE VIII

COEFFICIENT CN (CURVE NUMBER)

APPENDIX A

CN Tables

The four pages in this section are reproduced from the SCS (now NRCS) report *Urban hydrology for small watersheds*. This report is commonly known as *TR-55*. The tables provide estimates of the curve number (CN) as a function of hydrologic soil group (HSG), cover type, treatment, hydrologic condition, antecedent runoff condition (ARC), and impervious area in the catchment.

TR-55 provides the following guidance for use of these tables:

- *Soils are classified into four HSG's (A, B, C, and D) according to their minimum infiltration rate, which is obtained for bare soil after prolonged wetting. Appendix A* [of TR-55] *defines the four groups and provides a list of most of the soils in the United States and their group classification. The soils in the area of interest may be identified from a soil survey report, which can be obtained from local SCS offices or soil and water conservation district offices.*
- *There are a number of methods for determining cover type. The most common are field reconnaissance, aerial photographs, and land use maps.*
- *Treatment is a cover type modifier (used only in table 2-2b) to describe the management of cultivated agricultural lands. It includes mechanical practices, such as contouring and terracing, and management practices, such as crop rotations and reduced or no tillage.*
- *Hydrologic condition indicates the effects of cover type and treatment on infiltration and runoff and is generally estimated from density of plant and residue cover on sample areas. Good hydrologic condition indicates that the soil usually has a low runoff potential for that specific hydrologic soil group, cover type and treatment. Some factors to consider in estimating the effect of cover on infiltration and runoff are: (a) canopy or density of lawns, crops, or other vegetative areas; (b) amount of year-round cover; (c) amount of grass or close-seeded legumes in rotations; (d) percent of residue cover; and (e) degree of surface roughness.*
- *The index of runoff potential before a storm event is the antecedent runoff condition (ARC)...CN for the average ARC at a site is the median value as taken from sample rainfall and runoff data. The CN's in table 2-2 are for the average ARC, which is used primarily for design applications...*
- *...the percentage of impervious area and the means of conveying runoff from impervious areas to the drainage systems...should be considered in computing CN for urban areas...An impervious area is considered connected if runoff from it flows directly into the drainage systems. It is also considered*

connected if runoff from it occurs as shallow concentrated shallow flow that runs over a pervious area and then into a drainage system...Runoff from [unconnected impervious areas] *is spread over a pervious area as sheet flow.*

SCS TR-55 Table 2-2a – Runoff curve numbers for urban areas[1]

Cover description		Curve numbers for hydrologic soil group			
Cover type and hydrologic condition	Average percent impervious area[2]	A	B	C	D
Fully developed urban areas					
Open space (lawns, parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc.)[3]:					
Poor condition (grass cover < 50%)		68	79	86	89
Fair condition (grass cover 50% to 75%)		49	69	79	84
Good condition (grass cover > 75%)		39	61	74	80
Impervious areas:					
Paved parking lots, roofs, driveways, etc. (excluding right-of-way)		98	98	98	98
Streets and roads:					
Paved; curbs and storm sewers (excluding right-of-way)		98	98	98	98
Paved; open ditches (including right-of-way)		83	89	92	93
Gravel (including right-of-way)		76	85	89	91
Dirt (including right-of-way)		72	82	87	89
Western desert urban areas:					
Natural desert landscaping (pervious areas only)[4]		63	77	85	88
Artificial desert landscaping (impervious weed barrier, desert shrub with 1- to 2-inch sand or gravel mulch and basin borders)		96	96	96	96
Urban districts:					
Commercial and business	85	89	92	94	95
Industrial	72	81	88	91	93
Residential districts by average lot size					
1/8 acre or less (town houses)	65	77	85	90	92
1/4 acre	38	61	75	83	87
1/3 acre	30	57	72	81	86
1/2 acre	25	54	70	80	85
1 acre	20	51	68	79	84
2 acre	12	46	65	77	82
Developing urban areas					
Newly graded areas (pervious areas only, no vegetation)[5]		77	86	91	94
Idle lands (CN's are determined using cover types similar to those in table 2-2c					

[1] Average runoff condition, and $I_a = 0.2S$.
[2] The average percent impervious area shown was used to develop the composite CN's. Other assumptions are as follows: impervious areas are directly connected to the drainage system, impervious areas have a CN of 98, and pervious areas are considered equivalent to open space in good hydrologic condition. CN's for other combinations of conditions may be computed using figure 2-3 or 2-4.
[3] CN's shown are equivalent to those of pasture. Composite CN's may be computed for other combinations of open space cover type.
[4] Composite CN's for natural desert landscaping should be computed using figures 2-3 or 2-4 based on the impervious area percentage (CN = 98) and the pervious area CN. The pervious area CN's are assumed equivalent to desert shrub in poor hydrologic condition.
[5] Composite CN's to use for the design of temporary measures during grading and construction should be computed using figure 2-3 or 2-4, based on the degree of development (imperviousness area percentage) and the CN's for the newly graded pervious areas.