

CALIBRATING A HEC-RAS MODEL  
OF THE  
MISSOURI RIVER  
FOR  
FEMA FLOODWAY DEVELOPMENT  
AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD

# OUTLINE

1. General scope of the project
2. Available Data
3. Challenges
4. Streamlined approach
5. Techniques
6. Results to date.
7. Outstanding issues.

# SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The Kansas City and Omaha Districts are working with FEMA Region VII to Compute a floodway for the Missouri River from Mile 811 to the mouth.

The Kansas City District is responsible for the reach from Mile 498 to the Mouth

Modeling is based on the Upper Mississippi River System Flow Frequency Study (UMRSFFS) one percent probability flood profile.

Geometry data from the UMRSFFS UNET model was used to build a RAS model for the River

The RAS model is being calibrated to the UMRSFFS Profile.

# DELIVERABLES TO FEMA

Existing Conditions RAS Model

HEC-RAS data set

Geo-referenced project files

RAS floodway runs

Profile Plots

Data must meet DFIRM Data Capture  
Standards

# AVAILABLE DATA

UMRSFFS geometry files, flow data and profiles

A digital terrain model from bluff to bluff

A rough RAS geometry file based on the UMRSSFFS work

# CHALLENGES

Refining cross sections for 498 miles of river

Calibrating to within one half foot of the UNET profile which was the basis of the UMRSFFS model

Coordination between NWO, NWK and FEMA

Today we focus on the second  
challenge – Calibration of 498  
miles of river

# TECHNICAL APPROACH

Dr. Robert Barkau developed a program in Visual Basic to streamline calibration

Output files from the Visual Basic program feed directly into the RAS model

# Input Geometry

The original UMRSFFS simulations were performed in UNET.

UNET geometry was imported into RAS.

Therefore, calibration can be run from UNET geometry.

EXCEL algorithm utilizes UNET property tables.

# Very Fast Excel Backwater Algorithm

For calibration, about 30 times faster than RAS.

Missouri River from Rulo to St. Charles can be calibrated in less than a day.

Produces results in close agreement with RAS.

Calibrated “n” values can be imported into RAS.

# Calibration on One Screen

The target profile, calibrated profile and departure between the two are visible on one screen

Only one key stroke is required to re-run the simulation and view the changes to the profile

Can complete a new run in 5 to 10 seconds

# A major technical consideration

## The Missouri River Reclaims its Overbank During the 1% Flood

Missouri River agricultural levees provide protection up to approximately the 25 year event.

During larger events, the levees overtop and degrade and the Missouri River reclaims the floodplain.

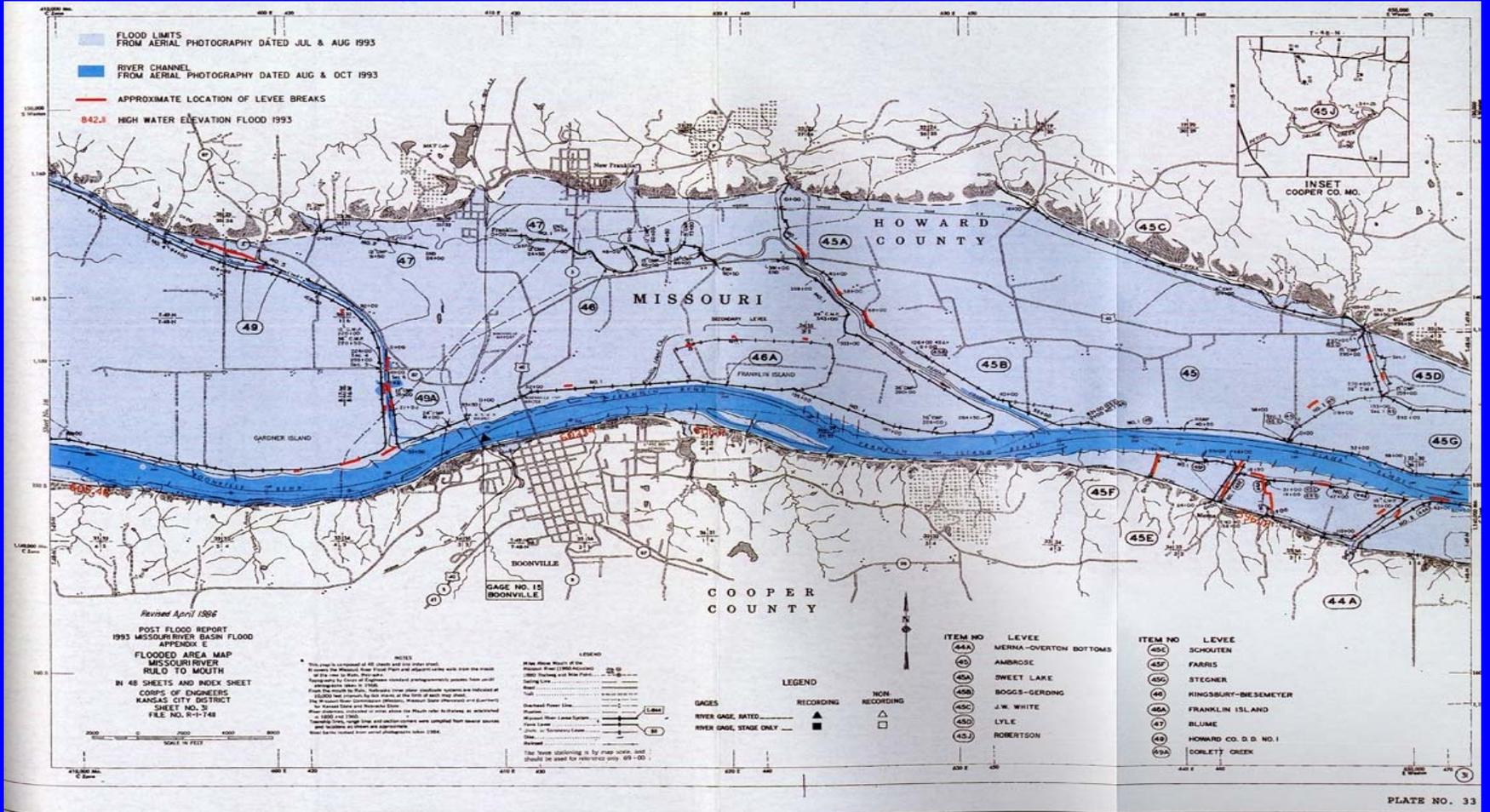
Observed at Rulo, St. Joseph, Waverly, Boonville, and Hermann by USGS flow measurements and the destruction of the floodplain during the 1993 flood.

# Calibration Strategy

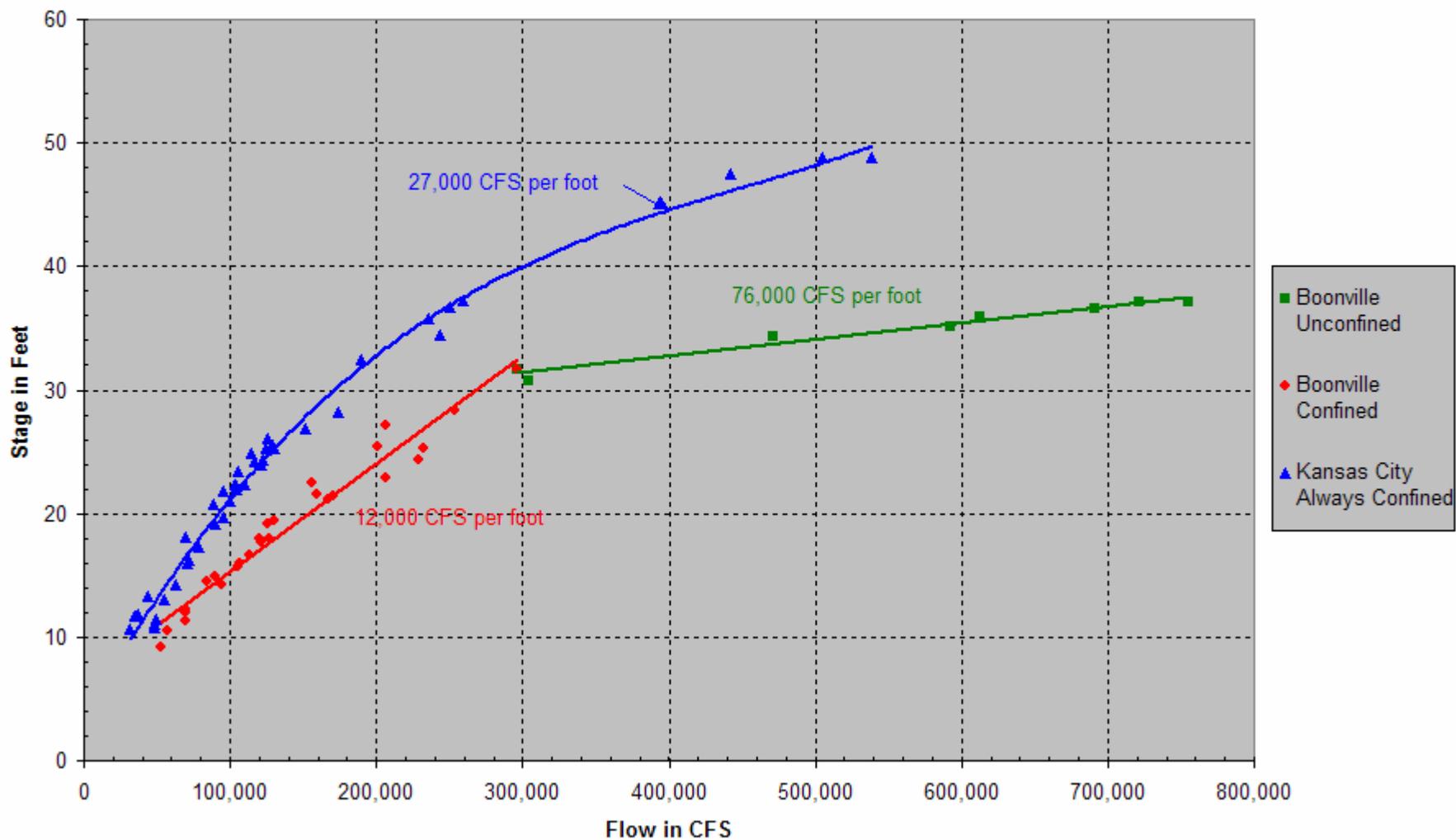
The UNET simulation assumed that, after levee failures, the Missouri River overbank conveyed water from bluff to bluff.

Therefore, RAS calibration assumed that Missouri River conveyed water from bluff to bluff.

# 1993 Flood at Boonville



# Missouri River 1993 Confined and Unconfined Discharge Measurements



The Visual Basic model uses the energy equation to compute stage in a similar way as does HEC-RAS.

# Energy Equation

$$Z_1 = Z_2 + \left( \frac{\alpha_2 V_2^2}{2g} \right) + S_f \Delta x_E + c \left| \frac{\alpha_2 V_2^2}{2g} - \frac{\alpha_1 V_1^2}{2g} \right| - \left( \frac{\alpha_1 V_1^2}{2g} \right)$$

Where:

$\alpha$  = the Velocity Distribution Coefficient,

and

$\Delta x_E$  = Conveyance Weighted Travel Distance  
of the Flow

These two factors distort the energy equation

$$\alpha = \frac{A_{LOB} \left( \frac{K_{LOB}}{A_{LOB}} \right)^3 + A_{Ch} \left( \frac{K_{Ch}}{A_{Ch}} \right)^3 + A_{ROB} \left( \frac{K_{ROB}}{A_{ROB}} \right)^3}{A \left( \frac{K}{A} \right)^3}$$

$$\Delta x_E = \frac{K_{LOB} \Delta x_{LOB} + K_{Ch} \Delta x_{Ch} + K_{ROB} \Delta x_{ROB}}{K}$$

# Conveyance Factors

$$F_{Ch} = \frac{K_{Ch\ New}}{K_{Ch\ Old}}$$

$$F_v = \frac{K_{OB\ New}}{K_{OB\ Old}}$$



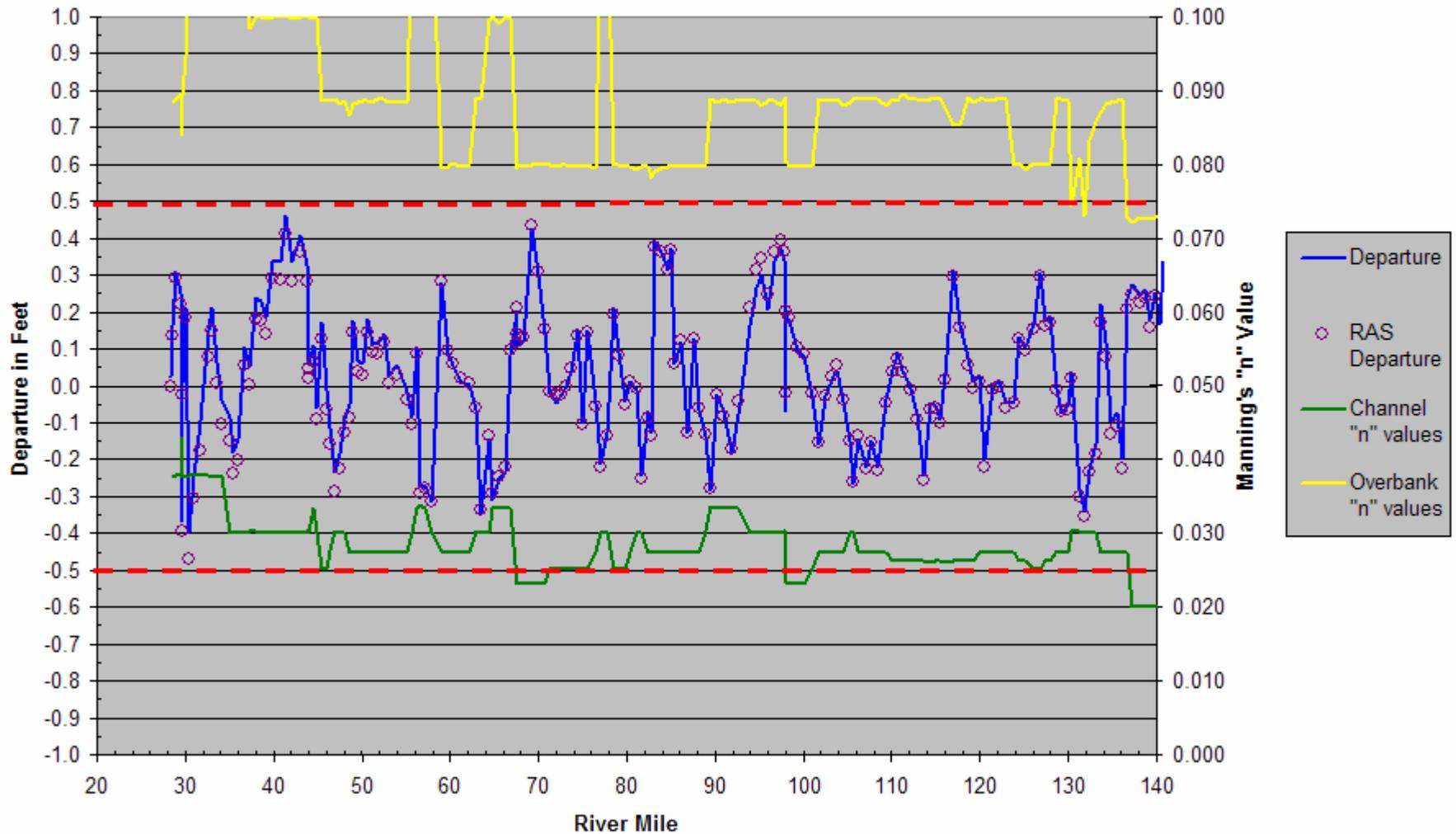
J24 = -0.3414306640625

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	Index	River Mile	Flow	Elevation	Channel Factor	Overbank Factor	Iterations	Error	100 Year Profile	Error	Channel "n"	Overbank "n"				
13	12	138.62	586000	553.98	1.500	1.100	2	0.000	553.72	0.26	0.020	0.073	9361	0.000	0.073	
14	13	138.10	591000	553.82	1.500	1.100	2	0.000	553.57	0.25	0.020	0.073	9229	0.000	0.073	
15	14	137.24	591000	553.26	1.500	1.100	2	0.000	552.99	0.27	0.020	0.072	11512	0.000	0.073	
16	15	136.61	591000	553.03	1.100	1.100	2	0.000	552.79	0.23	0.027	0.073	9732	0.000	0.073	
17	16	136.10	591000	552.47	1.100	0.900	1	-0.003	552.67	-0.20	0.027	0.089	9462	0.000	0.089	
18	17	135.61	591000	552.02	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	552.09	-0.07	0.027	0.089	9697	0.000	0.089	
19	18	134.89	591000	551.24	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	551.34	-0.09	0.027	0.088	9973	0.000	0.089	
20	19	134.25	591000	551.14	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	551.02	0.12	0.027	0.088	14069	0.000	0.089	
21	20	133.66	591000	550.87	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	550.65	0.22	0.027	0.087	13501	0.000	0.089	
22	21	133.12	591000	550.22	1.000	0.900	2	0.000	550.38	-0.16	0.030	0.086	13251	0.000	0.089	
23	22	132.47	591000	549.62	1.000	0.900	2	0.000	549.84	-0.23	0.030	0.083	12583	0.000	0.089	
24	23	131.84	591000	548.89	1.000	0.900	2	0.000	549.23	-0.34	0.030	0.073	11212	0.000	0.089	
25	24	131.19	591000	548.30	1.000	0.900	2	0.000	548.58	-0.28	0.030	0.081	10744	0.000	0.089	
26	25	130.37	591000	547.78	1.000	0.900	2	0.000	547.75	0.03	0.030	0.074	10979	0.000	0.089	
27	26	129.90	665000	546.96	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	547.01	-0.05	0.027	0.089	10073	0.000	0.089	
28	27	129.29	665000	546.05	1.100	0.900	1	0.003	546.13	-0.07	0.027	0.089	10236	0.000	0.089	
29	28	128.76	665000	545.49	1.100	0.900	1	-0.005	545.49	-0.01	0.028	0.089	11055	0.000	0.089	
30	29	127.98	665000	544.78	1.150	1.000	2	0.000	544.60	0.18	0.026	0.080	9918	0.000	0.080	
31	30	127.37	665000	544.38	1.150	1.000	2	0.000	544.21	0.17	0.026	0.080	10138	0.000	0.080	
32	31	126.83	665000	543.94	1.200	1.000	2	0.000	543.63	0.30	0.025	0.080	12492	0.000	0.080	
33	32	126.04	665000	543.48	1.200	1.000	1	0.005	543.31	0.17	0.025	0.080	9789	0.000	0.080	
34	33	125.12	665000	542.97	1.150	1.000	2	0.000	542.86	0.11	0.026	0.079	9209	0.000	0.080	
35	34	124.47	665000	542.11	1.150	1.000	2	0.000	541.98	0.13	0.026	0.080	10862	0.000	0.080	
36	35	123.84	665000	541.64	1.100	1.000	1	-0.003	541.69	-0.04	0.027	0.080	9293	0.000	0.080	
37	36	122.97	665000	540.93	1.100	0.900	0	-0.004	540.98	-0.05	0.027	0.089	10315	0.000	0.089	
38	37	122.09	665000	540.30	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	540.28	0.01	0.027	0.089	12271	0.000	0.089	
39	38	121.46	665000	539.82	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	539.82	0.00	0.027	0.089	11057	0.000	0.089	
40	39	120.56	666000	538.85	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	539.05	-0.20	0.028	0.089	11608	0.000	0.089	
41	40	119.93	666000	538.19	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	538.16	0.03	0.027	0.089	12670	0.000	0.089	
42	41	119.25	666000	537.66	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	537.65	0.01	0.026	0.089	13215	0.000	0.089	
43	42	118.58	666000	537.17	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	537.09	0.08	0.026	0.089	13752	0.000	0.089	
44	43	117.70	666000	536.43	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	536.26	0.17	0.026	0.085	13927	0.000	0.089	
45	44	116.95	666000	535.76	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	535.44	0.31	0.026	0.085	12791	0.000	0.089	
46	45	116.02	666000	534.81	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	534.78	0.03	0.026	0.088	12676	0.000	0.089	
47	46	115.39	666000	534.27	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	534.36	-0.09	0.026	0.089	11478	0.000	0.089	
48	47	114.96	666000	534.05	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	534.10	-0.05	0.026	0.089	11405	0.000	0.089	
49	48	114.45	666000	533.75	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	533.80	-0.05	0.026	0.089	11177	0.000	0.089	
50	49	113.65	666000	532.84	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	533.08	-0.24	0.026	0.089	12533	0.000	0.089	
51	50	112.88	666000	532.47	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	532.55	0.08	0.026	0.089	12817	0.000	0.089	

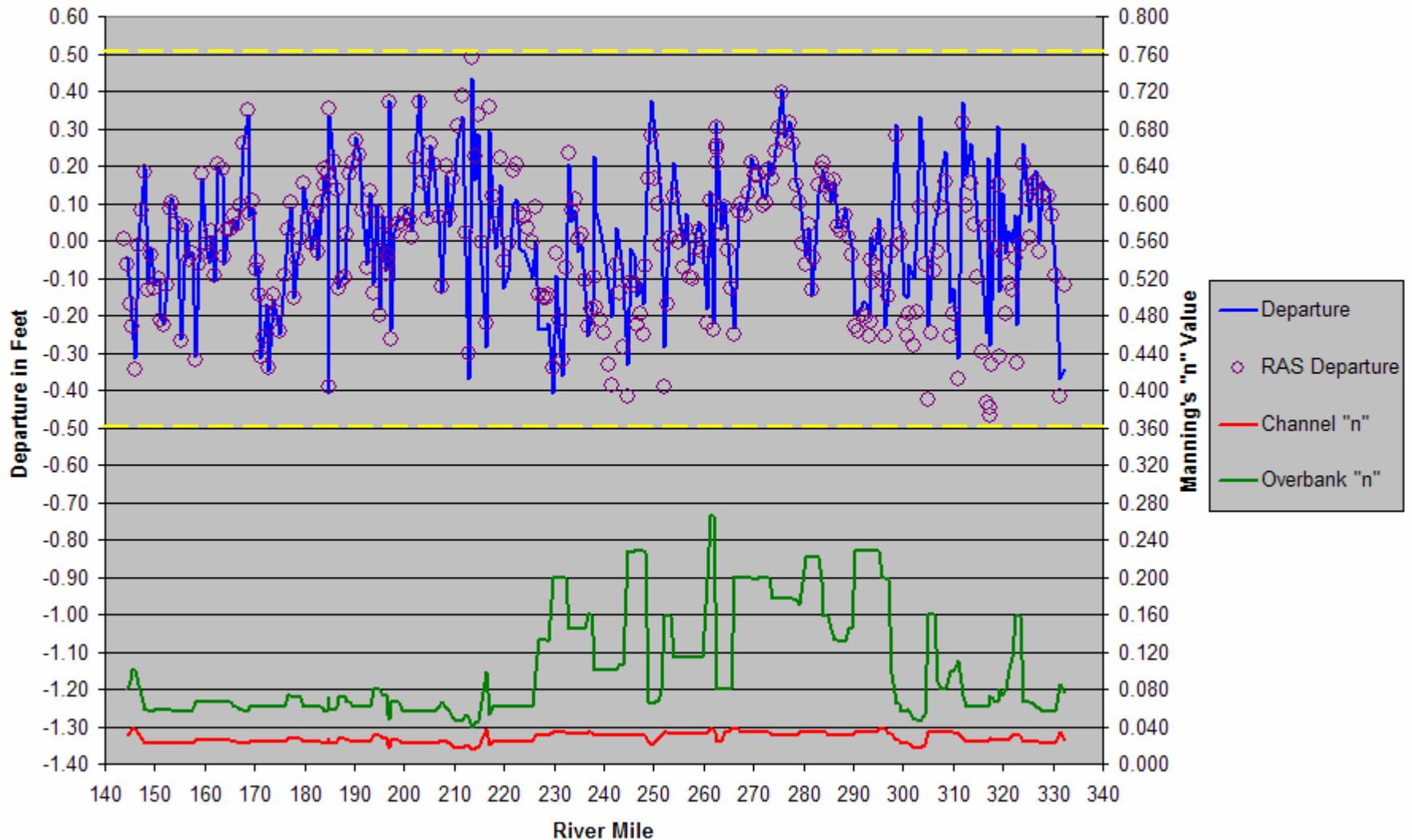


	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	Index	River Mile	Flow	Elevation	Channel Factor	Overbank Factor	Iterations	Error	100 Year Profile	Error	Channel "n"	Overbank "n"				
13	12	138.62	586000	554.05	1.500	1.100	2	0.000	553.72	0.32	0.020	0.073	9362	0.000	0.073	
14	13	138.10	591000	553.88	1.500	1.100	2	0.000	553.57	0.31	0.020	0.073	9229	0.000	0.073	
15	14	137.24	591000	553.33	1.500	1.100	2	0.000	552.99	0.34	0.020	0.072	11515	0.000	0.073	
16	15	136.61	591000	553.10	1.100	1.100	2	0.000	552.79	0.31	0.027	0.073	9732	0.000	0.073	
17	16	136.10	591000	552.55	1.100	0.900	1	-0.002	552.67	-0.12	0.027	0.089	9462	0.000	0.089	
18	17	135.61	591000	552.10	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	552.09	0.01	0.027	0.089	9698	0.000	0.089	
19	18	134.89	591000	551.34	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	551.34	0.00	0.027	0.088	9973	0.000	0.089	
20	19	134.25	591000	551.24	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	551.02	0.21	0.027	0.088	14072	0.000	0.089	
21	20	133.66	591000	550.96	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	550.65	0.32	0.027	0.087	13503	0.000	0.089	
22	21	133.12	591000	550.33	1.000	0.900	2	0.000	550.38	-0.05	0.030	0.086	13259	0.000	0.089	
23	22	132.47	591000	549.73	1.000	0.900	2	0.000	549.84	-0.11	0.030	0.083	12599	0.000	0.089	
24	23	131.84	591000	549.05	0.930	0.900	2	0.000	549.23	-0.19	0.032	0.073	11292	0.000	0.089	
25	24	131.19	591000	548.38	0.900	0.900	2	0.000	548.58	-0.20	0.034	0.081	10770	0.000	0.089	
26	25	130.37	591000	547.78	1.000	0.900	2	0.000	547.75	0.03	0.030	0.074	10979	0.000	0.089	
27	26	129.90	665000	546.96	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	547.01	-0.05	0.027	0.089	10073	0.000	0.089	
28	27	129.29	665000	546.05	1.100	0.900	1	0.003	546.13	-0.07	0.027	0.089	10236	0.000	0.089	
29	28	128.76	665000	545.49	1.100	0.900	1	-0.005	545.49	-0.01	0.028	0.089	11055	0.000	0.089	
30	29	127.98	665000	544.78	1.150	1.000	2	0.000	544.60	0.18	0.026	0.080	9918	0.000	0.080	
31	30	127.37	665000	544.38	1.150	1.000	2	0.000	544.21	0.17	0.026	0.080	10138	0.000	0.080	
32	31	126.83	665000	543.94	1.200	1.000	2	0.000	543.63	0.30	0.025	0.080	12492	0.000	0.080	
33	32	126.04	665000	543.48	1.200	1.000	1	0.005	543.31	0.17	0.025	0.080	9789	0.000	0.080	
34	33	125.12	665000	542.97	1.150	1.000	2	0.000	542.86	0.11	0.026	0.079	9209	0.000	0.080	
35	34	124.47	665000	542.11	1.150	1.000	2	0.000	541.98	0.13	0.026	0.080	10862	0.000	0.080	
36	35	123.84	665000	541.64	1.100	1.000	1	-0.003	541.69	-0.04	0.027	0.080	9293	0.000	0.080	
37	36	122.97	665000	540.93	1.100	0.900	0	-0.004	540.98	-0.05	0.027	0.089	10315	0.000	0.089	
38	37	122.09	665000	540.30	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	540.28	0.01	0.027	0.089	12271	0.000	0.089	
39	38	121.46	665000	539.82	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	539.82	0.00	0.027	0.089	11057	0.000	0.089	
40	39	120.56	666000	538.85	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	539.05	-0.20	0.028	0.089	11608	0.000	0.089	
41	40	119.93	666000	538.19	1.100	0.900	2	0.000	538.16	0.03	0.027	0.089	12670	0.000	0.089	
42	41	119.25	666000	537.66	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	537.65	0.01	0.026	0.089	13215	0.000	0.089	
43	42	118.58	666000	537.17	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	537.09	0.08	0.026	0.089	13752	0.000	0.089	
44	43	117.70	666000	536.43	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	536.26	0.17	0.026	0.085	13927	0.000	0.089	
45	44	116.95	666000	535.76	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	535.44	0.31	0.026	0.085	12791	0.000	0.089	
46	45	116.02	666000	534.81	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	534.78	0.03	0.026	0.088	12676	0.000	0.089	
47	46	115.39	666000	534.27	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	534.36	-0.09	0.026	0.089	11478	0.000	0.089	
48	47	114.96	666000	534.05	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	534.10	-0.05	0.026	0.089	11405	0.000	0.089	
49	48	114.45	666000	533.75	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	533.80	-0.05	0.026	0.089	11177	0.000	0.089	
50	49	113.65	666000	532.84	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	533.08	-0.24	0.026	0.089	12533	0.000	0.089	
51	50	112.88	666000	532.47	1.150	0.900	2	0.000	532.55	0.08	0.026	0.089	12817	0.000	0.089	

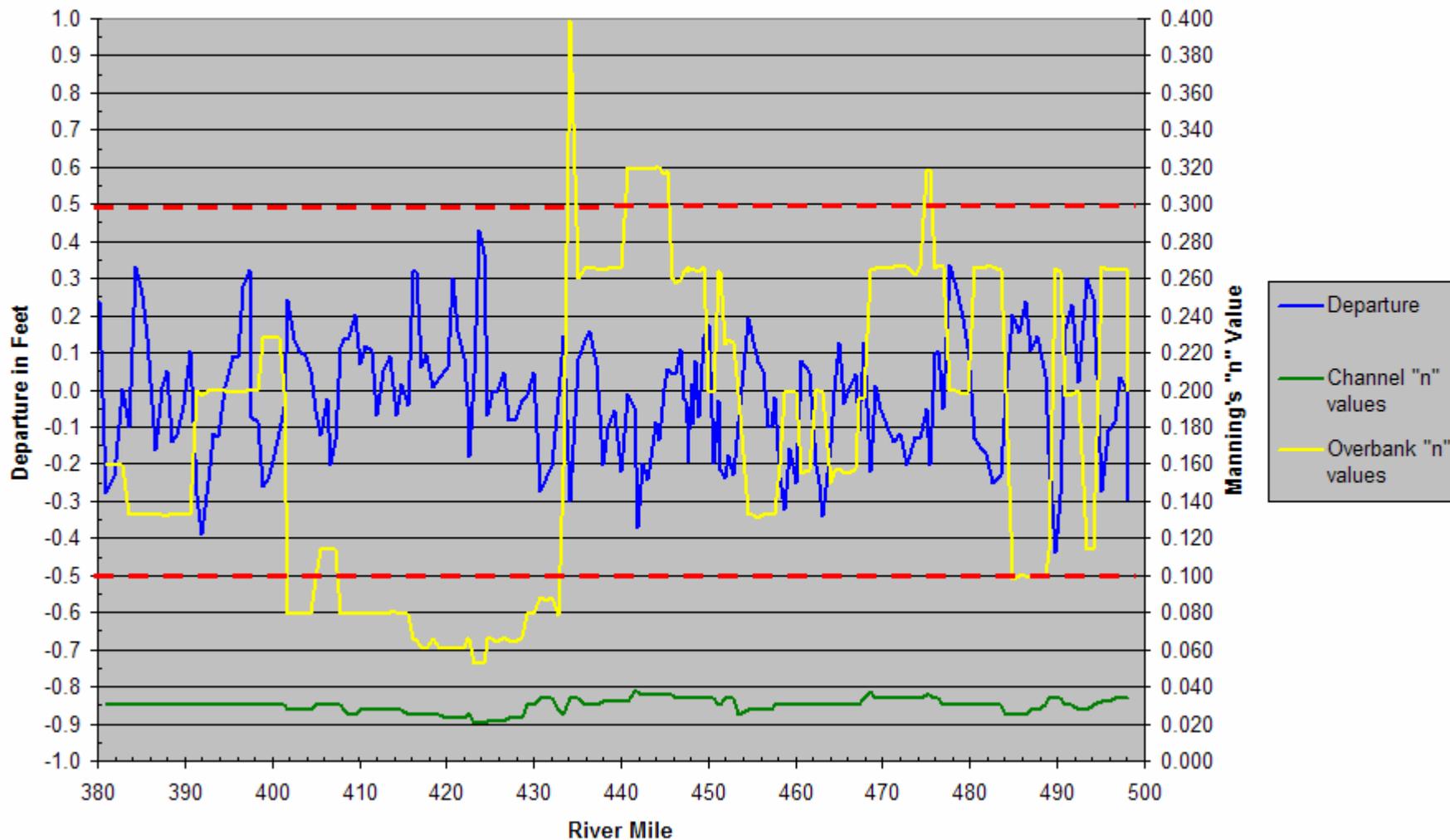
### Missouri River from Jefferson City to St. Charles Optimized "n" Values and Resulting Departure from FFS 100 Year Profile



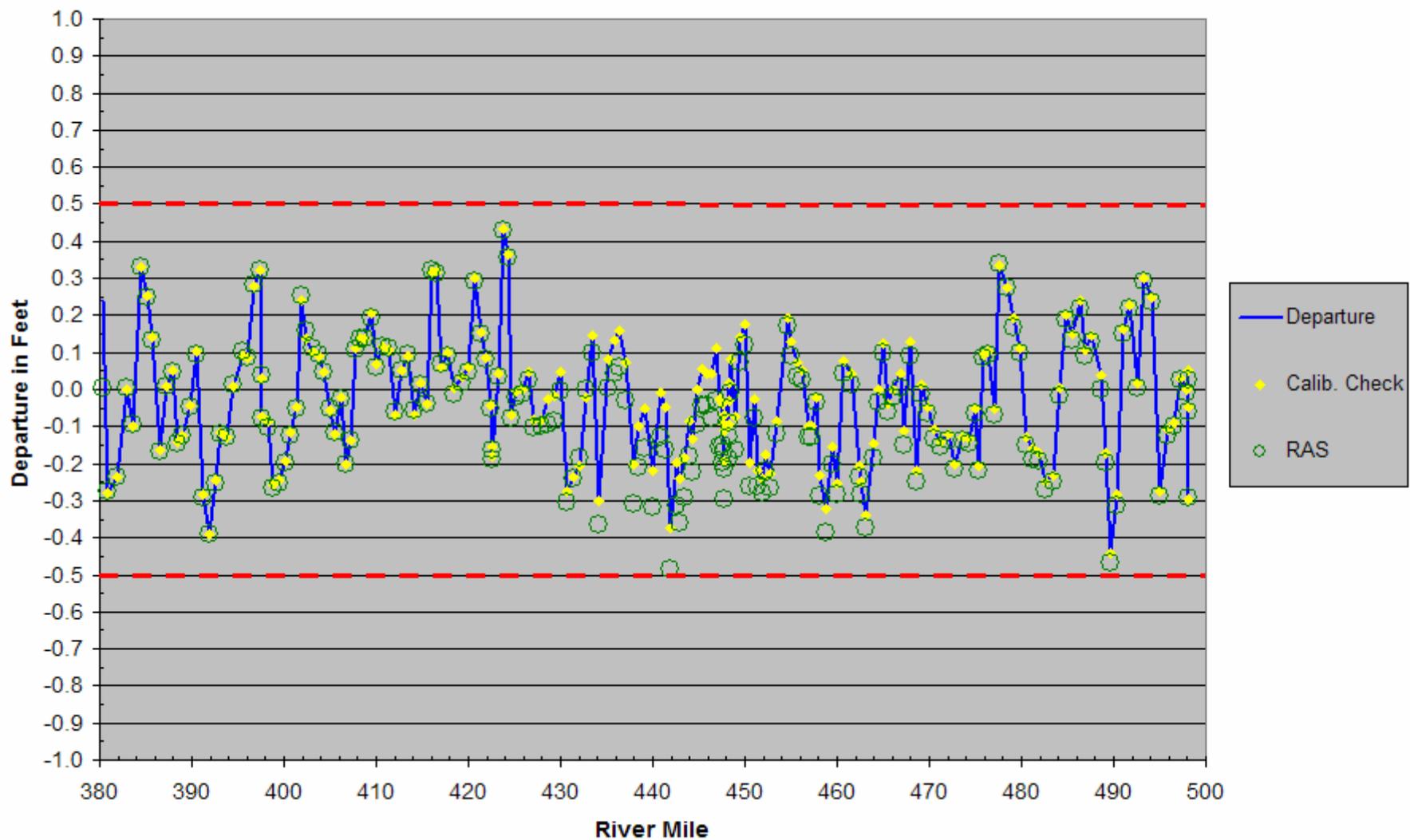
### Missouri River from Jefferson City to RM 333 Optimized Departure from 100 Year FFS Profile



### Missouri River from Mile 380 to Rulo Optimized "n" Values and Resulting Departure from FFS 100 Year Profile



### Missouri River from Mile 380 to Rulo Departure from FFS 100 Year Profile



# Outstanding issues

ITR and Resolution of Comments

Coordination with FEMA

# DISCUSSION