5. Summary of the Weather Pattern of March 10 -20 1982

This report is an excerpt from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) report titled "Floods of March 1982 in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois". The graph is directly from this report.

Total rainfall for the period of March 10 – 20, 1982 over there region was moderate. Most of the Maumee River Basin had a total rainfall of 1.5 to 2 inches, but several locations received up to 2.5 inches. The rainfall coupled with temperatures above 40 ^{o}F started the snowmelt in the southern half of the Maumee River Basin in advance of the snowmelt farther north. In fact, most of the snow in the southern half of the basin had melted prior to passage of the warm front on the evening of March 12.

Although the rainfall during the period March 10 – 20 was only a secondary factor, it did contribute to the flooding. Streams that peaked early because of rapid snowmelt had slower recessions or additional rises because of the rainfall. Flood peaks on streams that rose later because of delayed snowmelt or that characteristically have a broad flood peak also were increased by the rainfall. At Fort Wayne, the Maumee River was kept above flood stage from March 12 through March 26 by runoff from the melting snow and by rainfall.

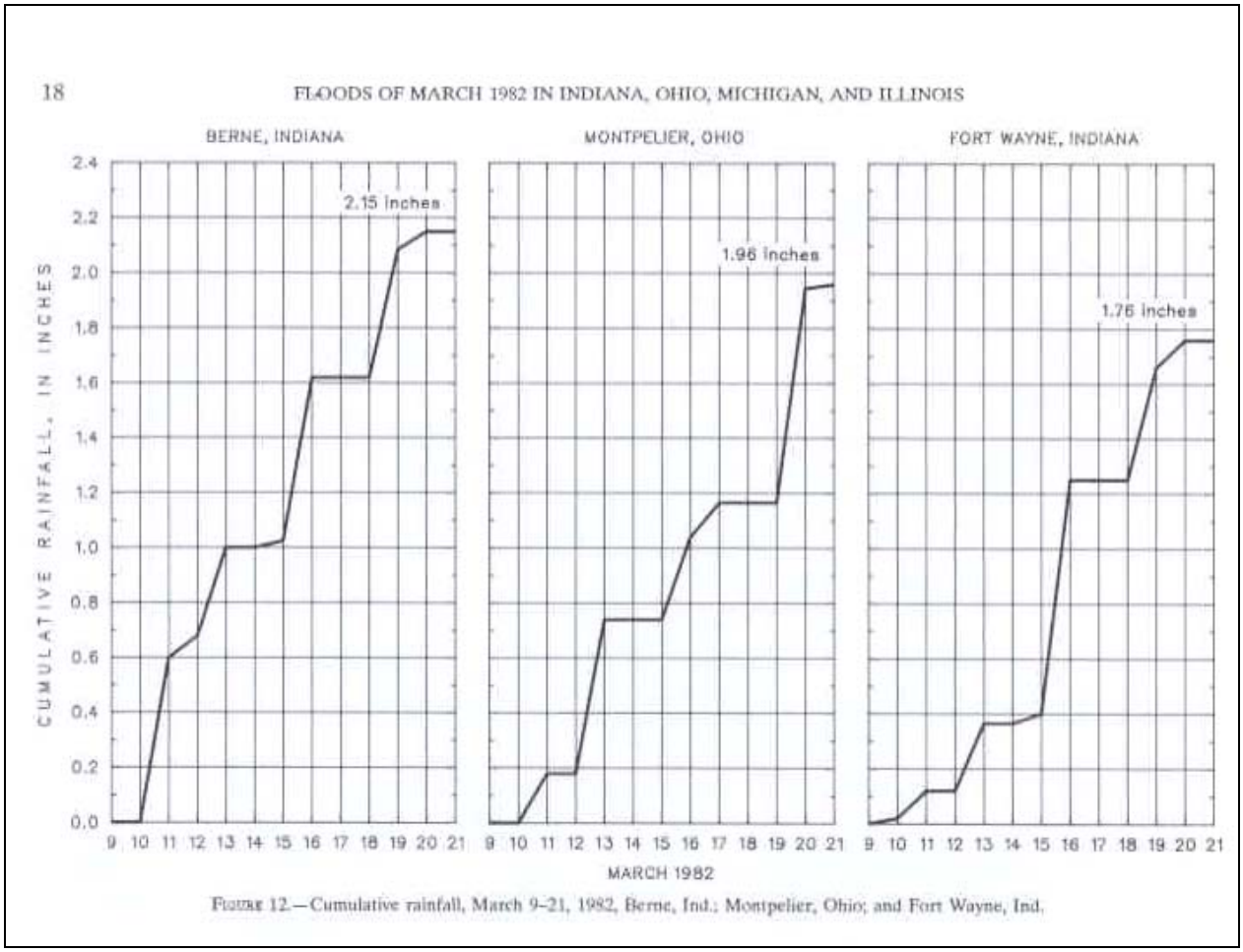

FIGURE 12.—Cumulative rainfall, March 9–21, 1982, Berne, Ind.; Montpelier, Ohio; and Fort Wayne, Ind.

Rainfall totals for 3 stations in the Maumee River Basin