

Drought Information Center

December 30, 1998

Light precipitation (less than 0.25 inch) occurred across the southern tier counties, from as far north as Beaver County on the western border, down through Somerset and Bedford and eastward to Blue Mountain. No appreciable improvement to either stream flows or ground water levels is expected from this activity.

Stream flows in the upper Allegheny basin showed minor temporary increases late yesterday but began declining again by this morning. West Branch Susquehanna tributaries generally continued their gradual downward trend. Tributaries in the lower Delaware River basin improved very slightly yesterday and in the upper basin generally continued gradual downward trends.

Lake effect snow warnings are in effect for the far northwestern counties late today and tonight. Otherwise, western Pennsylvania forecasts call for temperatures falling through the teens, with snow showers. Eastern Pennsylvania is forecast to experience temperatures dropping into the high teens and twenties, with snow showers north and rain or snow showers south. Ten-day forecasts show the possibility of 1.25-1.75 inches across most of Pennsylvania, with up to 2.5 inches in northwestern counties.

Southeastern Pennsylvania began reporting some water supply system problems over the holiday weekend. Bucks County Health Department reported 9 systems on voluntary restrictions. A municipal authority in Northampton County reported use of fire trucks to supply non-potable water to a subdivision on their system; the subdivision is supplied by wells, which failed on Christmas Eve