

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

September 23, 1999

During the past 24 hours there were small areas along Delaware River, and a small part of the Warren-McKean County area that received less than a quarter-inch of rain. For the period September 21 to 22, the eastern half of the state received rainfall amounts ranging to slightly over an inch in the northeast corner, and that averaged possibly 0.30 to 0.50 inches for this half of the state.

The Delaware River Basin shows flow recessions on the mainstem Delaware River, the Bush Kill Basin and Brodhead Creek Basin since Monday, while flow enhancement is noted in the Lackawaxen River Basin. Other streams in the Delaware Basin have mixed flow increases and decreases, but no major changes since Monday other than Neshaminy Creek at Langhorne has receded from flood stage. The mainstem Delaware River at Riegelsville is down from 15,800 to 9,020 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is up from 319 to 481 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is about even from 2,020 to 2,040 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down from 5,400 to 4,680 cfs., and Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is about even from 599 to 582 cfs. About 90% of the gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for September 23.

In the Susquehanna River Basin, flow enhancements are seen in the Tunkhannock Creek Basin, Lackawanna River Basin, Wapwallopen Creek Basin, Fishing Creek Basin, East Mahantango Creek Basin, Swatara Creek Basin and in the Conestoga River Basin since September 20. The mainstem Susquehanna River, Chemung River Basin, Juniata River Basin and West Conewego Creek Basin show receding stream flows. The West Branch Susquehanna River Basin shows mainly receding gauges except for flow enhancement trends on Loyalsock and Muncy Creeks. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down at Towanda from 8,320 to 5,990 cfs., down at Wilkes-Barre from 15,500 to 9,610 cfs. and down at Harrisburg from 25,600 to 20,100 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 953 to 561 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 2,580 to 2,080 cfs. at Williamsport and down from 4,830 to 3,930 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River at Newport is down from 2,570 to 1,920 cfs. and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is up from 853 to 994 cfs. About 60% of the gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for September 23.

The Ohio River Basin shows no major change over the past three days, with most stream flows holding close to even. Although the Allegheny River is down slightly at Natrona from 1,790 to 1,660 cfs., there is an overall flow enhancement over the length of the stream. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is down slightly from 5,280 to 4,930 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is up slightly from 488 to 536 cfs. and the Monongahela River at Braddock is even with Monday's reading of 1,960 cfs. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

Since September 20, 25 counties with monitoring wells show a water level rise for 19 counties and a drop for six. Water level rises range from 0.02 to 10.13 ft. with an average increase of 1.31 ft. Decreases range from 0.05 to 0.43 ft. with an average drop of 0.25 ft.

No significant rainfall is forecast for Pennsylvania for the next five days. For the period September 28 to October 3, an average of 0.5 to 1.0 inch of rain is expected throughout the state. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be normal to somewhat above normal.