

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

February 10, 2000

The only precipitation data available this morning is for the past 48 hours. The period February 8 to 9 had essentially no precipitation in Pennsylvania. During the past 24 hours most of the Commonwealth had scattered light precipitation except for the southeastern quadrant and extreme western counties. This total area with precipitation encompasses perhaps one-third the area of the state with total water amounts ranging from about 0.05 to 0.50 inches.

In the Delaware River Basin, the most common trend is little or no change in stream flows since Monday. The exceptions to this rule are mixed gauge changes for the mainstem Delaware River and Schuylkill River Basin, and flow recessions for the Lehigh River Basin. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 13,300 to 10,600 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 422 to 355 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 1,240 to 1,020 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 1,250 to 1,060 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is up marginally from 228 to 241 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 75% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for February 10.

Since February 7, the rule for the Susquehanna River Basin is flow recession. The Chemung River, Lackawanna River, Sherman Creek, Conodoguinet Creek, Yellow Breeches Creek, West Conewago Creek and Conestoga River basins are holding somewhat steady, while Wapwallopen Creek and Codorus Creek basins show flow enhancements. The Susquehanna River is down from 4,300 to 3,970 cfs. at Towanda, down from 23,600 to 20,700 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 47,000 to 40,800 cfs. at Harrisburg. (Harrisburg readings are possibly affected by ice.) The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 2,460 to 2,150 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 3,250 to 2,690 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 3,800 to 3,420 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 3,270 to 2,800 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is unchanged at 285 cfs. at Conestoga. About 85% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

The most prevalent trend for the Ohio River Basin over the past three days has been rather steady conditions. Enhancements are noted for the mainstem Ohio River, and for Kinzua Creek, Clarion River, Crooked Creek and Chartiers Creek basins. Conewago Creek and Redbank Creek basins show flow recessions while mixed gauge changes appear for the mainstem Allegheny River, and for French Creek, Kiskiminetas River and Monongahela River basins. The Allegheny River is up from 5,230 to 5,600 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is up from 8,900 to 9,450 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 1,580 to 1,510 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 2,200 to 3,220 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 1,220 to 1,120 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since February 7, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for six counties and drops for 21. Increase range from 0.01 to 1.37 ft. (Pike County) with an average rise of 0.29 ft. Decreases range from 0.02 to 1.82 ft. (Carbon County) with an average fall of 0.31 ft.

Between 0.5 and 1.5 inches of precipitation (water equivalent) is forecast for Pennsylvania over the next five days, with the greater amounts expected in the more southern counties. For the period February 15 to 20, between 1.0 and 1.5 inches of precipitation is expected across most the state, with possibly higher amounts likely in the extreme southwest. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be close to normal.