

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

March 13, 2000

For the period March 5 to 12 there was considerable precipitation across at least the eastern half of the state. This section of Pennsylvania averaged a total of perhaps slightly over an inch (moisture equivalent) for this period that ranged from 0.6 to 1.6 inches. The western half of Pennsylvania averaged a total of somewhat over a half-inch of precipitation for this same period, where rainfall totals ranged from 0.3 to 1.5 inches. Preliminary data for the past 24 hours suggests an average of an inch of rain over the northeast quarter of the state, with some stations in the area receiving as much as two inches.

In the Delaware River Basin, moderate to significant flow enhancements are seen for most major streams since Monday of last week. The only exceptions are Frankford Creek and Crum Creek basins, which are holding somewhat steady. The mainstem Delaware River is up from 20,900 to 31,100 cfs. at Trenton (yesterday). The Lackawaxen River is up from 541 to 1,260 cfs. at Honesdale. The Lehigh River is up from 3,980 to 5,070 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is up from 3,190 to 6,090 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is up from 386 to 559 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 80% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for March 13.

Since March 6, the Susquehanna River Basin shows an unusual mix of flow trends. The mainstem Susquehanna River and the Chemung River Basin show flow enhancements in the upper reaches, but show only minor changes further downstream. The West Branch Susquehanna River shows a receding trend, while Penns Creek Basin is fairly steady. The rest of the streams in the Susquehanna River Basin show general flow enhancements. The mainstem Susquehanna River is up from 25,000 to 30,700 cfs. at Towanda, up from 35,800 to 41,200 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 72,800 to 62,300 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 8,890 to 6,840 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 13,900 to 11,500 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 16,700 to 13,900 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is up from 5,580 to 6,490 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is up from 763 to 1,350 cfs. at Conestoga. About 55% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

In the Ohio River Basin, the most prevalent trend over the past week is flow recession. This seen for the mainstem Allegheny River, mainstem Ohio River, Oswayo Creek, Kinzua Creek, Conewango Creek, Brokenstraw Creek, Oil Creek, French Creek, Clarion River and Kiskiminetas River basins. Enhanced discharges are the rule for the Monongahela River, Chartiers Creek and Raccoon Creek basins, while the rest of the streams in this major basin are holding rather even. The Allegheny River is down from 29,200 to 13,600 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 42,300 to 28,900 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 3,610 to 2,640 cfs. at Vandergrift. The

Monongahela River is up from 11,500 to 15,800 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is holding fairly even from 2,630 to 2,550 cfs. at Beaver Falls. Almost all of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since March 6, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 11 counties and drops for 16. Increases range from 0.13 to 1.69 ft. (Union County) with an average rise of 0.58 ft. Decreases range from 0.04 to 4.60 ft. (Carbon County) with an average drop of 0.95 ft.

Between 1.0 and 1.5 inches of precipitation (water equivalent) are forecast for Pennsylvania over the next five days, with somewhat lesser amounts expected in the east. For the period March 17 to 22, between 0.5 and 1.0 inches of precipitation are expected, with somewhat heavier amounts expected toward the southeast. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be generally above normal, mainly toward the end of the period.