

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

March 27, 2000

For the period March 19 to 26 there was moderate to heavy precipitation in the southeastern quadrant of the state, and light to moderate precipitation at other locations in Pennsylvania. For this period, total precipitation for county stations varied from 0.1 to four inches (Delaware County). Northwest, southwest, northeast and southeast quadrants of the Commonwealth averaged approximately 0.6, 1.3, 1.0 and 2.0 inches respectively. Over the past 24 hours, there was no measurable precipitation in Pennsylvania other than a very small area in the Venango County area with a total amount of under 0.10 inches.

The Delaware River Basin shows mostly flow enhancements in the southeastern part of the Basin since last Monday, with the rest of the Basin trending toward lower discharges. Flow enhancements are seen in Pennypack Creek, Frankford Creek, Schuylkill River, Ridley Creek, Chester Creek and Christina River basins, while Neshaminy Creek and Crum Creek basins are holding rather steady. Flow recessions are seen on the mainstem Delaware River, and in the Lackawaxen River, Lehigh River, Tohickon Creek, Brodhead Creek and Bush Kill basins. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 26,500 to 14,500 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 987 to 523 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 4,410 to 3,730 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is up from 4,120 to 6,970 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is up from 418 to 1,170 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 65% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for March 27.

Since March 20, the Susquehanna River Basin shows predominantly flow enhancements. Flow recessions are seen on the mainstem Susquehanna River, and in the Towanda Creek, Tunkhannock Creek, Lackawanna River, Wapwallopen Creek and Fishing Creek basins. Streams in the Chemung River and West Branch Susquehanna River basins are tending to hold about even. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 18,700 to 13,000 cfs. at Towanda, down from 29,700 to 19,000 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 63,500 to 57,700 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is about even from 9,200 to 9,260 cfs. at Lock Haven, about even from 14,900 to 14,800 cfs. at Williamsport, and up slightly from 17,800 to 18,600 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is up from 5,150 to 8,810 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is up from 730 to 1,580 cfs. at Conestoga. About 70% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

In the Ohio River Basin, the most prevalent trend over the past week is flow recession. Redbank Creek, Mahoning Creek, Crooked Creek, Pine Creek and Raccoon Creek basins are holding somewhat steady, while enhancements are seen in the gauges for Kiskiminetas River and Monongahela River basins, and for the mainstem Ohio River. The Allegheny River is up from 17,900 to

20,600 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is up from 32,400 to 35,200 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 2,910 to 7,860 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down slightly from 15,500 to 15,300 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 2,490 to 2,280 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 20, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 20 counties and drops for seven. Increases range from 0.01 to 6.15 ft. (Schuylkill County) with an average rise of 1.46 ft. Decreases range from 0.10 to 1.93 ft. (Potter County) with an average drop of 0.66 ft.

Between 1.5 and 2.0 inches of precipitation (water equivalent) is forecast for all of Pennsylvania over the next five days. For the period March 31 to April 5, between 0.5 and 1.0 inches of precipitation are expected. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be close to normal.