

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

June 10, 2002

Governor Schweiker extended the drought emergency on May 8, 2002 for up to 90 additional days for 20 counties in the state. Four counties were removed from the emergency list with Huntingdon County returning to normal and Carbon, Monroe and Pike counties moving to drought watch status. Twenty-four counties were returned to normal status from drought watch status. These counties are indicated on the drought status map and in the news release at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought>.

Through the first 10 days of June, precipitation has resulted in continued improvements to stream flows and groundwater conditions. County precipitation totals through June 10th range from 1.0 inch (Franklin County) to 3.4 inches (Center, Clearfield and Tioga Counties). Departures from normal for the first 10 days of June range from -0.3 inches (Franklin County) to 2.0 inches (Tioga County). For the past 365 days, precipitation departures range from -15.7 inches (Philadelphia County) to +4.3 inches (Greene County).

As of this morning, the daily streamflow readings were above normal across the entire state except for the East Mahantango Creek, Sherman Creek, Conodoguinet Creek, Codorus Creek, Yellow Breeches Creek, Swatara Creek, West Conewago Creek and Conestoga River Basins which are in the Lower Susquehanna River Basin, and the Christina and Schuylkill River Basins and Pennypack, Frankford, Crum, Ridley and Chester Creek Basins located mostly in the Lower Delaware River Basin. Also, streamflows in the Potomac River Basin are below normal. Daily streamflow readings across the state range from 45% of normal streamflow to as high as 591% of normal streamflow. Instantaneous streamflow readings of 162 gages for June 10th at 1:45 a.m. indicate that there was 10 gages with flows less than the 25th percentile and 3 at less than the 10th percentile. It should be noted that there were no record low flows recorded for this date. The 30-day streamflow duration graphs for June 10th reflect the positive affect the recent rainfall has had on streamflows in the Delaware and Susquehanna River Basins. In the Delaware Basin 8 of 18 stream gages are increasing, with all of the duration graphs in the Normal range. Ten of the 31 gages show increases in their 30-day average streamflow values in the Susquehanna River Basin, with one duration graph in warning. Daily streamflow readings in the Delaware and Susquehanna Basins are now dropping with lowest flows occurring in the southeastern and south-central portion of the state.

The 30-day duration graphs for June 10th indicate that groundwater continues to respond to the recent rainfall. In the Delaware Basin, 6 of 13 groundwater-monitoring gages are increasing, with 4 in emergency, 1 in warning and 3 in watch. In the Susquehanna Basin 12 of 21 gages are increasing with two wells in emergency at this time. Groundwater levels are again dropping due to the seasonal

evaporation and transpiration that occurs during the summer months.