

# *Watershed* MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

January 7, 2000

From January 3 to 6, precipitation totals across the state varied from less than a half-inch along much of the southern and eastern Pennsylvania borders, to over an inch in some western and northwestern counties. Extreme southeastern counties received close to an inch total precipitation during this period. Over the past 24 hours there was light precipitation concentrated in three small pockets across the state. These pockets are approximately located over McKean, Bradford and Westmoreland Counties; precipitation totals for these areas are less than a half-inch. Probably less than 5% of Pennsylvania received significant precipitation since yesterday.

In the Delaware River Basin, there is a variety of flow responses since Tuesday. The mainstem Delaware River, Lackawaxen River Basin, Tohickon Creek Basin, Schuylkill River Basin and Chester Creek Basin show enhancement trends. Bush Kill Basin and Brodhead Creek Basin are in the recession category while Frankford Creek Basin, Crum Creek Basin and Ridley Creek Basin are holding fairly even. Mixed gauge changes are seen in the Lehigh River Basin and Neshaminy Creek Basin. The mainstem Delaware River is up from 6,670 to 8,610 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is up slightly from 263 to 279 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is up slightly from 1,680 to 1,710 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is up from 1,650 to 1,940 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is up from 265 to 344 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 70% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for January 7.

Compared with January 4 readings, most stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are in the flow recession category. The exceptions to this are the mainstem Susquehanna River, Towanda Creek Basin, Tunkhannock Creek Basin, Fishing Creek Basin and the West Branch Susquehanna River Basin, which show enhancement trends. East Mahantango Creek Basin, Codorus Creek Basin and the Conestoga River Basin are showing somewhat even flows. The mainstem Susquehanna River is up from 5,790 to 19,000 cfs. at Towanda, up from 7,350 to 26,500 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and up from 17,000 to 22,800 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 2,740 to 5,590 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 4,600 to 7,900 cfs. at Williamsport, and up from 5,500 to 8,840 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is up slightly from 2,030 to 2,070 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down slightly from 380 to 371 cfs. at Conestoga. About 55% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin shows mixed flow trends since three days ago. The Allegheny River, Ohio River, Oswayo Creek Basin, Lower French Creek Basin, Monongahela River Basin and Crooked Creek Basin show flow enhancements. Mahoning Creek Basin and Kiskiminetas River Basin show mixed gauge changes while the remainder of the Ohio River Basin shows flow recessions. The Allegheny River is up

from 14,000 to 39,900 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is up from 23,600 to 50,000 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 1,180 to 1,680 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 4,350 to 8,780 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 12,400 to 6,960 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 65% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at above normal flow for today's date.

Since January 4, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 11 counties and drops for 16. Increases range from 0.01 to 5.55 ft. (Potter County) with an average rise of 0.83 ft. Decreases range from 0.04 to 2.06 ft. with an average fall of 0.38 ft. The Cameron County reading was taken yesterday, January 6.

Between a half-inch and one inch total precipitation is forecast for all of Pennsylvania over the next five days. For the period January 12 to 17, essentially the same pattern and amount of precipitation is expected to be repeated. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be close to normal.