

## September 4, 2007

Over the last 7 days, precipitation has been below average across the State. The monthly trend is normal to somewhat normal for most of the State with the Southwest region receiving well above average for this time. The 90 day precipitation drought indication changes: Most counties registering normal with a handful registering 'watch' (basically in the northwestern part of the State).

Stream flow indicators have all returned to Normal status across the state. The rainfall that occurred in August has brought about positive changes in streamflow, however, due to the most recent lack of rain this past week, streamflow values have peaked and have begun to decrease across the state with some instantaneous readings exceeding the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile value.

Overall, groundwater wells scattered along the Ridge and Valley and the Plateau remain in watch/warning/emergency status. Several of the wells had a brief period of increasing levels in August, but have all returned to declining trends. Vegetation predominantly captures a large percentage of the precipitation in the summer, so any meaningful recovery in groundwater wells will not begin until later this year.

The 7-day forecast shows 1.5 to 3.0 inches of precipitation for the central tier of the State; Northwest and Southeast regions 0.5 – 1.5 inches – normal for the central tier to somewhat below normal for the two corner regions of the state. The 8–14 day forecast: indicates 0.5 – 1.5 inches of precipitation across the State.

The forecasting predicts below normal precipitation over the next 14 days. The 7-day forecast predicts 0.1 to 0.25 inches for most of the state with no precipitation in the far western portion of the state. Probabilities of precipitation over the next 7 days are low (0-15%) from Friday into next week with most areas. The 14-day forecast predicts precipitation amounts between 0.25 to 1 inch between September 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

The recent precipitation has impacted the precipitation deficits, streamflow, soil moisture and limited immediate impact on the groundwater well levels. DEP is recommending 26 counties be brought out of the drought watch. The list was developed based upon the 9/4/07 drought indicator status for the four drought monitoring criteria as well as the Public Water Suppliers that we are aware of experiencing problems due to drought conditions.

Below is the list of counties recommended to remove from a drought watch status:

Allegheny	Lawrence
Armstrong	Lebanon
Beaver	Mercer
Butler	Mifflin
Carbon	Northumberland
Clarion	Perry
Crawford	Pike
Fayette	Susquehanna
Huntingdon	Tioga
Indiana	Warren
Jefferson	Wayne
Juniata	Westmoreland
Lackawanna	York

