

## November 10, 2008 Drought Report

On Friday, November 7, DEP Acting Secretary John Hanger announced a drought watch for 29 counties and asked the commonwealth's citizens to voluntarily reduce water use by five percent. The announcement came as a result of deteriorating precipitation and streamflow conditions in the western and northcentral counties that are evidenced by ongoing monitoring across the commonwealth.

This declaration is for the following counties:

Allegheny	Clarion	Mercer	Potter
Armstrong	Clinton	Greene	Somerset
Beaver	Crawford	Indiana	Tioga
Butler	Elk	Jefferson	Venango
Cambria	Erie	Lawrence	Warren
Cameron	Fayette	Lycoming	Washington
Centre	Forest	McKean	Westmoreland
Clearfield			

Over the last 7 days, there have been trace precipitation amounts in the eastern part of the state and no precipitation in the western part of the state. Precipitation deficits of up to six inches have been building over the last three months in the western and northcentral counties.

Streamflow indicators continue to show below normal conditions across much of the northcentral and portions of the western parts of the state.

Groundwater wells scattered across the Commonwealth show signs of stress that began in August, reaching the watch/warning indicator status in September that has continued to date.

The 7-day precipitation forecast indicates 1.0 to 2.0 inches for much of the state. The 14-day forecast provides little precipitation for most of the entire state with a slightly higher amount predicated for the northwest. These levels of precipitation will provide little, if any, relief to streamflow and groundwater levels, as well as significantly impacting the precipitation deficits that have accumulated over the past three months.