

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

January 8, 1999

Due to an inaccessible Internet server at the host site, precipitation data for the past 24 hours is not available this morning.

Stream flows in the upper Delaware Basin tributaries are showing marked declines as runoff from last weekend's precipitation has moved toward the lower basin. Flows in the upper Lehigh Schuylkill and Christina basins are showing similar conditions. As that runoff is moving downstream, flows in the lower Delaware, Lehigh and Schuylkill River main stems continue to reflect those increased flows.

The Susquehanna River main stem is showing marginally increased flows from New York to Harrisburg, probably reflecting the tail end of runoff from last weekend's precipitation and some snow and ice melt runoff. There is evidence of some snow and ice melt runoff in the West Branch Susquehanna River basin, as flows in the headwater streams are generally up from yesterday, while main stem flows in the lower basin are receding. The Juniata basin is showing similar effects with marginally increased flows in the headwaters and slightly lower flows in the lower main stem. Tributary stream flows in the lower Susquehanna basin are generally declining.

Stream flows throughout the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio River basins are generally stabilizing, with minor fluctuations both up and down mixed throughout the basins. Flows in the Ohio River at Sewickley fell by only 800 cubic feet per second (cfs) from 11,700 cfs yesterday to 10,900 today, reflecting that stabilization.

No new ground water information is available this morning.

Precipitation began about 6:00 a.m. today in the Harrisburg area, and the weather forecasts indicate that precipitation will cover the entire Commonwealth today through tomorrow. Forecasts still indicate total precipitation in the range of about 0.6-1.5 inches, with the greater concentrations appearing north of the Blue Mountain and in the central/eastern area of the state.

Yesterday, reports came in about several water suppliers in York County that initiated voluntary conservation measures within their systems. Richland Borough, in Lebanon County imposed mandatory restrictions because of markedly decreased production from their springs and wells. Water buffaloes were summoned in Luzerne County to serve a cluster of homes in Dorrence Township whose wells have failed and in Fulton County to provide assistance in three areas. Erie County Health Department reported about 60 calls from owners of individual wells that are failing throughout the county, and that several small mobile home parks are providing periodic on/off water service to protect

rapidly declining well levels.