

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

February 26, 1999

Limited information available this morning shows that precipitation during the past 24 hours was scattered and limited to the western quarter of the state. Totals in that area ranged from 0 to 0.2 inch, with the heaviest precipitation occurring in the southwest.

In the Delaware River basin, stream flows in the main stem above Riegelsville are increased somewhat, with flows at Riegelsville up from 8320 cubic feet per second (cfs) yesterday to 8600 cfs today. Trenton flows are down slightly from 8660 to 8550 cfs. Lehigh River watershed flows are generally down in the upper watershed, while the main stem flows are increased from 1860 to 2050 cfs at Bethlehem in the lower watershed. Schuylkill River watershed flows are generally decreased slightly, with the main stem at Philadelphia flowing at 2020 cfs this morning, compared to 2090 cfs yesterday. Christina River watershed flows show little change as well, with Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford down from 228 to 225 cfs. With only a couple exceptions, basin gages are recording below-normal flows.

In the Susquehanna River basin, stream flows in the main stem are all down, with the Harrisburg gage reading 21,400 cfs, compared to 23,300 yesterday. Upper basin tributaries have decreased, with the Lackawanna River at Old Forge down from 284 to 279 cfs. West Branch watershed flows decreased as well, with the Lewisburg gage reading 7050 cfs this morning, compared to 7250 yesterday. Juniata River watershed flows are down, although the river at Newport increased from 1700 to 1810 cfs. Lower basin tributary flows have also decreased, as reflected by the Conestoga River at Conestoga, down from 379 to 370 cfs. Flows throughout the basin are well below normal.

In the Ohio River basin, Allegheny River main stem flows are decreased at all gages, with flows at Natrona down from 13,600 to 12,700 cfs. Allegheny tributary flows are all decreased, except the Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is just even at 1320 cfs. Monongahela River watershed flows are mixed; the Youghiogheny River at Sutersville is up from 1540 to 1580 cfs, while the Monongahela River at Braddock is down from 5680 to 5220 cfs. Beaver River watershed flows are holding about even, with the river at Beaver Falls steady at 2250 cfs, equal to yesterday. The Ohio River at Sewickley is little changed as well at 21,300 cfs, compared to 21,200 yesterday. Flows throughout the basin are at about half normal rates.

No ground water data is available this morning.

The three-day forecast indicates the possibility of about 0.5 inch of precipitation across the state, with up to 1 inch in the westernmost counties, occurring primarily near the end of the period. The five-day

forecast adds about an inch in the Ohio basin and about a half inch in the Susquehanna and Delaware basins. The 6-10 day forecast adds about 1.5-2.0 inches statewide and indicates that temperatures should be at or above normal, in the 25-40 degree range.

Closing out the week, and as we approach the end of the month, we note that precipitation deficits for the month of February abound in and west of the Ridge and Valley Section, exceeding 1 inch in many counties in the western Susquehanna River basin. Precipitation that is forecast for this weekend will be needed to achieve normal February precipitation levels.