

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

August 5, 1999

Since August 3, the state had precipitation over the northwestern half of Pennsylvania except for the extreme northwest corner. Rainfall amounts for this area ranged up to about 0.75 inches, but averaged less than perhaps 0.20. Some extremely scattered areas of precipitation of 0.1 to 0.3 inches were seen in other areas.

The Delaware Basin has little significant change since August 3. The mainstem Delaware reading for Trenton is missing this morning, but the gauge at Riegelsville is down from 3,410 to 3,070 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is essentially unchanged from 19 to 20 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is marginally up from 446 to 455 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Reading is up slightly from 207 to 209 cfs. The Schuylkill at Philadelphia is up from 34 to 99 cfs., and Brandywine Creek at Chadd's Ford is slightly down from 53 to 49 cfs. Flows in many streams continue to be substantially below normal for this date.

In the Susquehanna Basin, headwater and lower basin streams also show little if any significant change since Tuesday. The Susquehanna mainstem at Towanda is down slightly from 1,000 to 939 cfs. It is marginally up from 1,420 to 1,440 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 3,130 to 2,860 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is essentially unchanged from 357 to 362 at Renovo, and down from 625 to 568 cfs. at Williamsport. The Juniata River at Newport is increased slightly from 728 to 789 cfs., and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is down from 79 to 73 cfs. Most streams are well below normal flow for August 5; many smaller streams have less than 25% normal flow.

In the Ohio Basin, some headwater streams have slightly lower gauge readings since August 5. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 4,680 to 4,270 cfs. The Allegheny River at Natrona is down from 5,230 to 4,340 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is down from 560 to 506 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is down from 1,650 to 1,550 cfs., and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is down from 1,180 to 1,010 cfs. Practically all streams in the Ohio Basin continue to have below normal discharge, with many smaller watercourses flowing at less than 50% normal flow for this date.

Of the 27 counties with monitoring wells, 22 registered water level drops since August 3. These drops range from 0.02 to 2.41 ft., with an average drop of 0.27 ft. Franklin County dropped 2.41 ft., while Pike County dropped 0.98 ft. Of the four counties with water level increases, the increases range from 0.01 to 0.18 ft. The Cameron County well level remains unchanged.

Through August 9, the forecast calls for rain concentrated mainly in the northeast third of the state.

Amounts should be about one inch in the northeast, tapering off to less than 0.25 inches in the southwest. During the period of August 9 to 14, rain is forecast with possibly an inch concentrated along the southern two-thirds of Pennsylvania; this area of precipitation should taper off to less than 0.25 inches along the northern tier counties. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be at or below normal.