

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**August 30, 1999**

There was some precipitation across the state since Thursday, most of that appeared to be concentrated in localized intense storms. Perry County received over three inches of rain. Mifflin County received about 0.8 inches of rain. Cumberland County and Adams Counties received close to an inch of rain. Heavy precipitation was also concentrated around Philadelphia, where several counties appeared to receive about an inch of rain. Tioga and Bradford Counties both received about 0.75 inches of rain. Although the western part of the state also had localized storms in several counties, there was no significant additional rainfall for this area as a whole. The eastern half of the state might have received an average of an additional half-inch precipitation.

In the Delaware River Basin, a general receding flow trend is noted from August 26 except in the Bush Kill and Lackawaxen River Basins, and on the mainstem Delaware River. The Delaware River at Riegelsville is holding essentially even from 3,160 to 3,090 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down slightly from 40 to 36 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 950 to 390 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down from 3,240 to 510 cfs., and the Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 135 to 94 cfs. Most gauges in the Delaware Basin are at below normal flow for August 30.

The Susquehanna Basin shows flow increases in the upper reaches of the West Branch Susquehanna River Basin, in the Juniata River Basin, in Sherman Creek Basin, in East Mahantango Creek Basin, in the Conodoguinet and West Conewego Creek Basins, and along the lower mainstem Susquehanna River. The Susquehanna River at Towanda is down marginally from 704 to 666 cfs. It is down slightly at Wilkes-Barre from 1,380 to 1,230 cfs., and up at Harrisburg from 4,570 to 6,030 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up at Renovo from 378 to 797 cfs. It is up at Lock Haven from 383 to 814 cfs., and up slightly at Williamsport from 835 to 866 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is up from 1,220 to 2,280 cfs., and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is up slightly from 100 to 109 cfs. About 40% of the gauging stations in the basin are still at below normal flow for this date.

Since last Thursday, the mainstem Ohio River and most of its tributary streams show mostly decreasing discharges. The Allegheny River at Natrona is down from 3,410 to 2,760 cfs. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 8,110 to 5,190 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is down from 287 to 247 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is down from 1,910 to 1,840 cfs., and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is down slightly from 1,010 to 971 cfs. There are still a good number of smaller tributaries in the Ohio Basin with well below normal flow for August 30.

Since August 26, the 27 counties with monitoring wells show a water level rise for six counties and a

drop for 17. Four counties are unchanged. Water level rises range from 0.04 to 0.26 ft. with an average increase of 0.15 ft. Decreases range from 0.02 to 0.65 ft. with an average drop of 0.23 ft.

No rain is forecast for the period August 30 to September 4. However, during the period September 4 to 9, an average of over two inches of rain is possible across the state if hurricane Dennis tracks as expected. Rainfall amounts could then be expected to range from over three inches along the Ohio line to about one inch in the extreme east. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be somewhat below normal.