Watershed MANAGEMENT 

Drought Information Center

September 30, 1999

During the past 24-hour period there was considerable rain in Pennsylvania. Perhaps 15% of the state area, mostly in central counties, received over two inches of rainfall. These amounts tapered to an average of about 0.75 to 1.0 inch along the state borders. Small areas located in the extreme northwest, extreme southeast and over the McKean County area had no rain during this period. Between September 27 to 29, rain was mainly concentrated in south central areas and averaged possibly one-third of an inch over about 20% of the state area.

The Delaware River Basin shows mainly flow enhancements over the past three days. Exceptions to this rule are below Belvidere on the mainstem Delaware River and some lower gauges in the Christina River Basin, which show some recessions. The Lackawaxen and Neshaminy River Basins show no major change. The Delaware River at Trenton is down from 7,830 to 6,310 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is even at 218 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is up from 2,000 to 3,430 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is about even from 2,090 to 2,050 cfs. and Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 404 to 356 cfs. Nearly all the gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

Since Monday, flow increases are seen almost everywhere in the Susquehanna River Basin except for the mainstem Susquehanna River which is receding. Water from the recent storm remains in upper basin storage. The Susquehanna River at Towanda is down from 4,570 to 2,930 cfs., down at Wilkes-Barre from 8,420 to 5,700 cfs. and holding even at Harrisburg at 16,400 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up at Lock Haven from 537 to 633 cfs., up at Williamsport from 1,260 to 2,040 cfs. and up slightly at Lewisburg from 2,170 to 2,210 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is up from 1,320 to 3,390 cfs. and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is up from 469 to 1,110 cfs. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for September 30.

Almost all streams in the Ohio River Basin show major flow enhancements since September 27 except The Oswayo Creek and Pine Creek Basins, which are holding about even. The Allegheny River at Natrona is up from 1,840 to 4,990 cfs. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is up form 6,000 to 15,200 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is up from 243 to 639 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is up from 1,320 to 5,680 cfs. and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is up from 640 to 953 cfs. About 70% of the gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

Since September 27, 25 counties with monitoring wells show a water level rise for 15 counties and a drop for nine. One well shows no change. Water level rises range from 0.02 to 13.14 ft. (questionable reading) with an average increase of 1.42 ft. If the questionable reading is excluded, the maximum

water level rise is 1.68 ft. with an average increase of 0.59 ft. Decreases range from 0.03 to 1.22 ft. with an average drop of 0.45 ft.

Complete weather forecast data is not available this morning. The five-day forecast for September 29 to October 4, made yesterday, calls for one to two inches total rainfall across the state. Since this is a close match for the previous 24-hour period, possibly little or no more rain can be expected through October 4, depending on the accuracy of the forecast. An inch or more of additional rainfall is expected for the period October 4 to 9 with heavier amounts in the southeast. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be normal to somewhat below normal.