

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

October 4, 1999

During the past 24 hours there was light to moderate rainfall over most of Pennsylvania that averaged about a half inch of precipitation. An area covering approximately Warren, Venango, and Forest County was left dry, and the Delaware-Philadelphia County area also had no rain. This was essentially the only rainfall in the last four days for the state.

Streams in the Delaware River Basin showed mixed flow enhancements and recessions since Thursday, with the recessions being more predominant. The notable exception to this pattern is the Lackawaxen River Basin where most gauges trended toward enhancements. The mainstem Delaware River at Trenton is up from 6,310 to 8,550 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down from 218 to 186 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 3,430 to 2,860 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is up from 2,050 to 3,000 cfs. and the Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 356 to 251 cfs. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for October 4.

Since September 30, the Susquehanna River Basin shows mainly flow recessions except for the mainstem Susquehanna River, mainstem West Branch Susquehanna River, Towanda Creek Basin and Tunkhannock Creek Basin; these streams show flow enhancements. The Susquehanna River is up at Towanda from 2,930 to 4,600 cfs., up at Wilkes-Barre from 5,700 to 8,050 cfs. and up at Harrisburg from 16,400 to 22,800 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up at Lock Haven from 633 to 1,560 cfs., up at Williamsport from 2,040 to 4,270 cfs. and up at Lewisburg from 2,210 to 6,410 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is down from 3,390 to 2,670 cfs. and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is down from 1,110 to 507 cfs. About 85% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

With very few exceptions, gauges in the Ohio River Basin have receded since Thursday. The Allegheny River at Natrona is down from 4,990 to 3,350 cfs. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 15,200 to 6,770 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is up from 639 to 723 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is down from 5,680 to 2,060 cfs. and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is down from 953 to 656 cfs. About 80% of the gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for October 4.

Since September 30, 25 counties with monitoring wells show a water level rise for 13 counties and a drop for 11. One county shows no change. Water level rises range from 0.02 to 5.44 ft. with an average increase of 1.06 ft. Decreases range from 0.12 to 7.53 ft. with an average drop of 1.28 ft.

Little if any additional rainfall is forecast for the Commonwealth through October 8. For the period October 8 to 13, an average of about an inch of rain can be expected across the state. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be close to normal.