

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

January 21, 2000

From January 18 to 20 there was light precipitation in Pennsylvania. The most northwestern quarter of the Commonwealth received total amounts ranging from 0.1 to 0.3 inches, with an average amount of possibly 0.2 inches for this area. For this same period, the rest of the state had total precipitation readings of mainly 0.1 and 0.2 inches with the exception of several 0.3 and 0.4 inch readings in about five southern and southwestern counties. During the past 24-hour period, there was snowfall across the entire state averaging possibly four inches, with higher accumulations in the southwest.

In the Delaware River Basin, most streams are showing mixed gauge changes since last Tuesday. Flow enhancements are seen in the Lehigh River and Frankford Creek basins, while Ridley Creek, Chester Creek and Tohickon Creek basins show receding trends. Neshaminy and Crum Creek basins are holding mostly steady. No data is available for the mainstem Delaware River for Tuesday, January 18. The Lackawaxen River is up from 263 to 413 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is up from 1,380 to 1,680 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is up from 1,410 to 1,800 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is up from 178 to 244 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 70% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for January 21.

Since January 18, the most common flow trends for the Susquehanna River Basin are mixed gauge changes and flow enhancement. The mainstem Susquehanna River, West Branch Susquehanna River Basin, Chemung River Basin, Swatara Creek Basin, Codorus Creek Basin and Conestoga River Basin are in the mixed gauge change category. Towanda Creek, Penns Creek, East Mahantango Creek, Juniata River, Sherman Creek and Yellow Breeches Creek basins show the flow enhancements. Wapwallopen Creek and Conodoguinet Creek basins are holding fairly even, while recessions are seen in Tunkhannock Creek and West Conewego Creek basins. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 8,810 to 8,700 cfs. at Towanda, up from 16,500 to 33,200 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and up from 28,700 to 62,700 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 2,990 to 3,420 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 5,770 to 6,240 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 7,250 to 6,260 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is up from 1,590 to 5,210 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is up from 330 to 362 cfs. at Conestoga. About 50% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin shows more streams with little gauge changes, over the past three days, than any other category. Oswayo Creek, Kinzua Creek, Redbank Creek and Kiskiminetas River basins show flow enhancements while French Creek, Mahoning Creek, Buffalo Creek, Chartiers Creek and Beaver River basins have mainly decreasing gauge readings. Mixed gauge changes are seen in the Allegheny River, Clarion River and Monongahela River basins. The Ohio River data for last Tuesday

morning is unavailable. The Allegheny River is up from 8,880 to 11,700 cfs. at Natrona. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 518 to 1,950 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 8,620 to 7,510 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 2,300 to 1,620 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 80% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since January 18, 26 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for eight counties and drops for 18. The Warren County reading was made yesterday, January 20 at 15:00, and the Allegheny County reading for January 18 was missing. Increases range from 0.01 to 1.36 ft. (Franklin County) with an average rise of 0.40 ft. Decreases range from 0.05 to 1.32 ft. (Pike County) with an average fall of 0.32 ft.

Between a quarter and one inch total precipitation is forecast for all of Pennsylvania over the next five days, with the higher amounts expected in the eastern half of the state. For the period January 26 to 31, between a quarter and a half inch total precipitation can be expected statewide, with lower amounts likely in south central counties. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be below normal for the early part of the period and above normal for January 26 to 31.