

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**February 15, 2000**

The only recent precipitation data available this morning is for the 24-hour period ending February 14. During this period there was moderate precipitation over most of Pennsylvania that averaged possibly 0.50 to 0.75 inches of water content. Precipitation data for the first half of February shows 32 Pennsylvania counties with less than 25% normal precipitation for the period. 29 counties are between 25% above and 25% below normal precipitation, and six counties are above 25% normal precipitation for the period February 1 to 14.

In the Delaware River Basin, flow enhancements are seen for all major streams since last Thursday. The mainstem Delaware River is up slightly from 10,600 to 10,700 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is up from 355 to 1,100 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is up from 1,020 to 2,440 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is up from 1,060 to 4,740 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is up from 241 to 839 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for February 15.

Since February 10, the Susquehanna River Basin also shows flow enhancements for all major streams. The mainstem Susquehanna River is up from 3,970 to 7,910 cfs. at Towanda, up from 20,700 to 23,000 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and up from 40,800 to 46,800 cfs. at Harrisburg. (Harrisburg readings are possibly falsely augmented by ice.) The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 2,150 to 2,990 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 2,690 to 6,460 cfs. at Williamsport, and up from 3,420 to 7,850 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is up from 2,800 to 5,840 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is up from 285 to 635 cfs. at Conestoga. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin, like the Delaware and Susquehanna River basins, shows flow enhancements for all major watercourses over the past five days. This is especially noted for the Monongahela River Basin and for the mainstem Ohio River. The Allegheny River is up from 5,600 to 23,400 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is up considerably from 9,450 to 109,000 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 1,510 to 4,070 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up considerably from 3,220 to 62,200 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 1,120 to 9,620 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at above normal flow for today's date.

Since February 10, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 20 counties and drops for seven. Increases range from 0.06 to 4.86 ft. (Franklin County) with an average rise of 0.97 ft. Decreases range from 0.03 to 2.51 ft. (Carbon County) with an average fall of 0.45 ft.

Two inches or more of precipitation (water equivalent) is forecast for most of Pennsylvania over the next five days, with the greater amounts expected in the southeastern quadrant. For the period February 20 to 25, between one-quarter and one-half inches of precipitation is expected for most of Pennsylvania. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be normal to somewhat above normal.