

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

May 1, 2000

From April 23 to 30 there was only scattered light precipitation in Pennsylvania. Maximum total amounts were about three-tenths of an inch, which occurred in Wayne, Susquehanna, Pike and Clinton counties. With the exception of an occasional one-tenth of an inch in about ten other counties, the state was dry for the period. There was essentially no measurable precipitation in the Commonwealth during the past 24 hours.

Since last Monday, the Delaware River Basin shows almost all flow recessions. The one exception, Frankford Creek Basin, is holding fairly even. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 31,900 to 15,200 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 1,350 to 472 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 3,840 to 2,360 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 4,060 to 2,330 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 760 to 456 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 65% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for May 1.

Since April 24, the Susquehanna River Basin shows all flow recessions. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 37,300 to 13,600 cfs. at Towanda, down from 50,100 to 19,400 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 127,000 to 46,400 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 28,700 to 7,170 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 43,100 to 11,400 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 45,700 to 13,300 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 24,100 to 5,490 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 723 to 540 cfs. at Conestoga. About 55% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

Compared with last week, the Ohio River Basin, like the other two major river basins, shows all flow recessions. The Allegheny River is down from 39,900 to 16,200 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 74,700 to 26,500 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 7,340 to 3,690 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 32,400 to 6,750 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 4,380 to 2,280 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since April 24, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for three counties and drops for 24. Increases range from 0.21 to 1.76 ft. (Pike County) with an average rise of 0.82 ft. Decreases range from 0.16 to 7.69 ft. (Potter County) with an average drop of 1.35 ft.

For the next five days, between one-tenth and one-half inches of precipitation is forecast for about 75% of Pennsylvania, with amounts generally increasing along the New York and Maryland borders from east to west. Central and east-central areas are expected to remain dry. For the period May 6 to 11,

between one-quarter to over an inch of precipitation is expected for the entire state, with expected total amounts generally increasing from southeast to northwest. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be somewhat above normal.