

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**August 9, 2000**

For the month of July 2000, 47 Pennsylvania counties had below normal precipitation. Departures from normal precipitation range from -2.70 inches (Cameron and Potter Counties) to +1.70 inches (Pike and Beaver Counties). The average departure from normal precipitation for all counties for the month of July is -0.72 inches. For the cumulative departure from normal precipitation for the first seven months of 2000, 51 Pennsylvania counties had normal or above normal rainfall. Cumulative precipitation departures range from -3.60 inches (Cambria County) to +9.40 inches (Susquehanna County). The average cumulative departure from normal precipitation, for all counties for the first seven months of this year, is +1.93 inches. For the first seven days of August, 64 Pennsylvania counties had greater than normal precipitation.

Compared to July 10, the Delaware River Basin shows mainly flow enhancements. Recessions are seen in Pennypack Creek, Frankford Creek and Christina River basins, while Crum Creek, Ridley Creek and Chester Creek basins are holding about even. Mixed gauge changes are seen in the Schuylkill River Basin. Previous data is unavailable for Tohickon Creek Basin. The mainstem Delaware River is up from 5,570 to 9,980 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is up from 235 to 285 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is up from 1,450 to 2,140 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is up from 1,380 to 1,870 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 195 to 178 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for August 9. The New York City Delaware River Basin storage (August 8) is 17.78% above normal and 124.345 billion gallon above the drought warning level.

Over the past four and a half weeks, the Susquehanna River Basin shows varying flow trends throughout its drainage area. The Lackawanna River, Wapwallopen Creek, Fishing Creek, West Branch Susquehanna River, Juniata River, Sherman Creek and Swatara Creek basins show flow enhancements, while recessions are seen in the Codorus Creek and Conestoga Creek basins. Mixed gauge changes are seen on the mainstem Susquehanna River and in the Chemung River Basin while East Mahantango Creek and Towanda Creek basins are holding rather steady. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 3,540 to 2,880 cfs. at Towanda, down from 5,340 to 4,790 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and up from 12,200 to 15,700 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 1,560 to 5,640 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 2,620 to 7,030 cfs. at Williamsport, and up from 3,120 to 4,550 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is up from 1,460 to 4,210 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 362 to 244 cfs. at Conestoga. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date. Nine of the 21 reservoirs of the Pennsylvania American Water Company (Scranton – Springbrook system) are still full, while the remainder are all above 88% full and drawing down very slowly. Total system storage is currently at

97.4% full. Due to locally heavy rains, Hanover Borough's total reservoir storage has increased by 6 million gallons over the last week. Total system storage is at 99.1% full. The larger Long Arm Reservoir is currently spilling while Sheppard Myers reservoir is at 91% capacity. Harrisburg's DeHart Reservoir has recently drawn down by 7 inches and is at 98.7% of capacity.

Compared with early July, the Ohio River Basin shows mainly augmented flows. French Creek and Clarion River Basins show mixed gauge changes while Oswayo Creek and Brokenstraw Creek basins are holding fairly even. Only Kinzua Creek Basin shows flow recession. The Allegheny River is up from 4,150 to 24,000 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is up from 6,570 to 40,900 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 944 to 5,150 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 3,340 to 15,000 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 1,670 to 2,410 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at above normal flow for today's date.

For July 2000, 21 of 28 stream gauging stations in Pennsylvania had a monthly mean discharge at or above average for the month of July. None of these stations had a monthly mean discharge below the 30th percentile value.

Since July 10, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for eight counties and drops for 19. Increases range from 0.11 to 5.22 ft. (Bucks County) with an average rise of 1.37 ft. Decreases range from 0.10 to 18.83 ft. (Carbon County) with an average drop of 1.98 ft. USGS July 2000 end-of-month summary figures showing percent of wells where water level is above average, have decreased for the Ohio and Susquehanna River basins, but have held even for the Delaware River Basin. The percent of wells where water level is above average is about 75%, 65% and 50% for the Ohio, Susquehanna and Delaware River basins, respectively.

For the next five days, between one-half and one inches of rain are predicted for the entire state. For the period August 14 to 19, between one-half and one inches of rain is again expected over all of Pennsylvania, with somewhat heavier amounts probable in the southwest. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be normal to above normal.