

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

January 5, 1999

No precipitation was fell overnight in the Commonwealth. With the snow and rain experienced over the weekend, six-month precipitation deficits have improved slightly.

Delaware River Basin flows are generally beginning to decline as runoff from last weekend's storm moves through the system. Some gages, however, are still showing near normal flow. The Delaware River Basin Commission is holding a public hearing in Trenton, New Jersey at 10:00 a.m. today to receive public comment regarding a possible drought emergency declaration. The Commissioners will meet immediately following the hearing to determine what course of action to follow.

Stream flows in the Ohio River basin are mixed as the northern portion of the watershed remains predominantly stable but well below average, while the southern portion of the watershed is experiencing flows near normal for this time of year.

West Branch Susquehanna River tributary flows are recovering slightly today but remain well below normal. The North Branch basin and main stem Susquehanna flows are steady or increasing slightly as runoff from the weekend storm makes its way downstream. Generally, flows in the watershed remain well below normal.

Groundwater levels are improving somewhat in the Delaware basin due to the recent precipitation. Groundwater levels in other major river basins shown little reaction to the weekend precipitation event.

The extended weather forecast for western Pennsylvania calls for a chance of measurable precipitation Friday, which could consist of a wintry mix including some rain. For eastern Pennsylvania, there is a chance of snow or rain predicted for late Friday, and a chance of mixed precipitation on Saturday. The long-range outlook through January 14 calls for both temperatures and precipitation to be near normal, with expected precipitation to range from three to five tenths of an inch water equivalent.