

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

January 14, 1999

Precipitation covered all of the Commonwealth during the past 24 hours. The heaviest concentrations, ranging from about 0.6-1.0 inches fell in a 100-mile wide band from Greene County up to Potter County. The northwestern counties received less than 0.5 inches. About 0.25-0.50 inches fell in the Ridge and Valley area and less than 0.25 inches fell southeast of the Blue Mountain.

In the Delaware River Basin, stream flows continue their decline in the upper basin down through the Lehigh River. Schuylkill tributary flows are up slightly, as are tributary flows throughout most of the lower Delaware basin. Lower basin tributary flows continue to hover near normal.

In the Susquehanna River Basin, upper main stem flows are up slightly from yesterday, while flows below Sunbury are falling. Most West Branch tributary and main stem flows are noticeably increased, but on the whole remain below normal. Juniata tributary and main stem flows are similarly increased and below normal. Lower Susquehanna tributaries are also up slightly and are generally near or above normal. The generally increased flows throughout the basin are probably attributable to the warmer period of weather that produced some runoff yesterday.

Precipitation and a warmer day produced runoff throughout most of the Ohio River Basin, with nearly all Allegheny River watershed stream flows up but still below normal. The Ohio River at Sewickley is up to 44,000 cubic feet per second, above the normal of 29,300. Flows in the Monongahela and Youghiogheny River basins are increased well above normal this morning. Beaver River tributaries and the main stem are also up, but appear to be peaking and remain generally below normal.

Ground water showed very slight improvement in the eastern Delaware basin but continued to decline along the Delaware/Susquehanna divide. Elsewhere, levels in the southern tier are up slightly; while all other wells continued to decline. While yesterday's precipitation and melt produced increases in runoff, no marked effect on ground water is noticeable.

Forecasts through Saturday afternoon indicate precipitation in excess of 1 inch for the eastern two-thirds of Pennsylvania and in the 0.2-1.0 inch range increasing from the western border toward the Ohio-Susquehanna River divide. The five-day forecast indicates 1.0-1.5 inches of total precipitation in the Ohio River basin and 1.5-2.5 inches east of the Ohio basin. The ten-day forecast adds another 0.5 inches north and west of the Blue Mountain and 0.1-0.25 inches southeast.

