

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

March 8, 1999

The weekend provided precipitation across the entire state, with totals ranging from about .25-.50 inch in the Delaware River basin area with some apparently very heavy localized concentrations reaching 2 or more inches in the upper Schuylkill watershed area, generally about 0.5-0.9 inch in most of the Susquehanna River basin area and about 0.4-0.8 inch in the Ohio River basin area.

In the Delaware River basin, main stem flows on the Delaware River have decreased since Friday, with only the Trenton gage showing a higher flow, up from 16,300 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 17,400 cfs. Despite the weekend precipitation, tributary flows have also decreased. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down from 1850 to 508 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 4360 to 3110 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down from 3960 to 3290 cfs and in the Christina River watershed, Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 446 to 309 cfs. Most gages in the basin are reading below normal again this morning.

In the Susquehanna River basin, the main stem Susquehanna River has fallen as far downstream as Sunbury, but is increased at Harrisburg from 67,200 to 77,300 cfs. Tributary flows have also declined in the Susquehanna basin. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge is down from 1150 to 622 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna is down at Lewisburg from 41,300 to 21,100 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is declined from 15,600 to 5520 cfs, and in the lower basin the Conestoga River at Conestoga is down from 1030 to 634 cfs. More than half of the basin gages are below normal.

In the Ohio River basin, the main stem Allegheny River is also declined at all gages, down at Natrona from 34,300 to 27,400 cfs. Allegheny tributary flows have also declined, although the Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is up from 3840 to 5010 cfs. Monongahela River watershed flows have increased somewhat from Friday, with the river at Braddock up from 44,500 to 45,100 cfs. In the Beaver River watershed, flows are down, as is the river at Beaver Falls, from 10,700 to 7770 cfs. The Ohio River at Sewickley is up significantly from 80,300 to 211,000 cfs. Basinwide, nearly all gages are below normal.

Ground water has declined in 11 of the 27 daily monitoring wells, predominately in the Susquehanna River basin area.

The 3-day forecast indicates the possibility of about 0.1-0.2 inches of precipitation, restricted primarily to the southwestern counties. The 5-day forecast indicates a total of 0.1-1.0 inch again with the higher concentrations in the southwest and decreasing northeastward. The 6-10 day forecast adds about another inch statewide, with temperatures to be about normal in the 35-40 degree range.

