

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

August 12, 1999

Since August 9, most of the state had some light precipitation. An area in the south-central counties extending westward toward the state line had no rain during that period.

The southeastern corner of the state averaged about 0.30 inches of rain while the rest of the Commonwealth in the rain area had an average of possibly 0.15 inches.

There are no major changes in the Delaware Basin. The mainstem Delaware is up slightly from 2,510 to 2,600 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is up from 16 to 23 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down slightly from 559 to 529 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Pottstown is down from 376 to 319 cfs., and down at Philadelphia from 272 to 195 cfs. The Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is unchanged at 53 cfs. Many streams have less than 30 percent normal flow for this date.

The Susquehanna Basin likewise shows no major changes although a slightly decreasing flow trend is evident at most gauges on the mainstem Susquehanna. The Susquehanna River at Towanda is down from 805 to 678 cfs. It is down from 1,300 to 1,200 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and also down from 2,890 to 2,840 cfs at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna is down from 411 to 362 cfs. at Renovo and also down from 671 to 652 cfs. at Williamsport. The Juniata River at Newport is up from 750 to 802 cfs., and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is up from 63 to 73 cfs. Many streams, including the mainstem Susquehanna, have less than 30 percent normal flow for August 12.

In the Ohio Basin, there is an increased flow trend on the mainstem Allegheny, but the Kiskiminetas and Beaver Rivers show decreases at all gauges. The Allegheny River at Natrona is up from 2,760 to 3,860 cfs. The mainstem Ohio is down slightly from 5,360 to 5,010 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is down from 267 to 251 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is up slightly from 1,550 to 1,600 cfs., and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is down from 1,120 to 881 cfs. Many streams have substantially below normal flow for August 12.

Of the 27 counties with monitoring wells, 25 showed a drop ranging from 0.04 to 1.06 ft., with the average drop being 0.21 ft. Two counties showed a water level rise.

The precipitation outlook for the period August 12 to 17 calls for an average of perhaps three inches of rain over the eastern third of the state. During this period, the rest of the state should get an average of about 1.25 inches of rain. For the period August 17 to 22, another 0.5 to 1.5 inches of rain is expected over the entire state, with somewhat higher amounts in the eastern half. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be normal to somewhat above normal.

