

# *Watershed* MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**August 16, 1999**

Since August 12, the state had some significant precipitation. From August 12 to 13, there was a slug of rain concentrated in the western to northwestern part of the state, with amounts ranging up to two inches, but averaging about 1.0 to 1.3 inches over approximately 50% of Pennsylvania. The bulk of the precipitation since Thursday occurred between August 13 to 15, where rainfall amounts ranging up to 2.0 or 3.0 inches or more were concentrated in a band, extending across about the middle third of the state from about Altoona to the New Jersey border. Average rainfall amounts for this east-west corridor averaged possibly 2.75 inches and encompassed about 35 or 40% of the area of Pennsylvania. For the August 13 to 15 period, the remaining 60 to 65% of the state received an average of perhaps an inch of rain. During the past 24 hours, there were small areas of the state along the New Jersey border, and in the north-northeast, that had rainfall amounts ranging up to an inch, but averaging perhaps less than 0.50 inches over less than 20% of Pennsylvania.

Since Friday, the Delaware Basin showed general improvement because of the recent rain. The mainstem Delaware at Riegelsville is up from 3,160 to 4,260 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is up from 16 to 26 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is up from 549 to 878 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is up from 443 to 1,410 cfs., and the Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is up from 53 to 83 cfs. Many major streams, however, are still significantly below normal flow for this date.

Over the weekend, the Susquehanna Basin also showed general improvement. The Susquehanna River at Towanda is up from 678 to 790 cfs. It is up at Wilkes-Barre from 1,170 to 1,260 cfs., and up at Harrisburg from 2,890 to 6,230 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna is up from 352 to 631 cfs. at Renovo, unchanged at 362 cfs. at Lock Haven, and down at Williamsport from 1,070 to 776 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is up from 717 to 2,570 cfs., and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is up from 73 to 302 cfs. Many gauges, including the mainstem Susquehanna, continue to record significantly below normal flows for August 16.

In the Ohio Basin, overall increased flows are not as evident as they are elsewhere. The Allegheny River at Natrona is down from 4,090 to 3,460 cfs. The mainstem Ohio at Sewickley is up from 5,910 to 6,280 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is up from 283 to 464 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is unchanged at 1,600 cfs., and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is up from 898 to 1,620 cfs. Many streams in this basin are still well below normal for this date.

Since August 13, the 27 counties with monitoring wells showed a water level rise for 13 counties and a drop for another 13; Huntingdon County was unchanged. Water level rises ranged from 0.04 to 1.02 ft. with an average increase of 0.35 ft. Decreases ranged from 0.01 to 2.83 ft. with an average drop of

0.33 ft.

For the period August 16 to 21, an average of possibly an inch of rain is forecast over the state, with amounts up to perhaps 3.0 inches expected over the south-central area. The period August 21 to 26 is expected to bring an additional 0.5 inches or more of rain that should be evenly distributed over the Commonwealth. For the next ten days, temperatures are expected to be close to normal.