

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

October 7, 1999

In the past three or four days, the eastern half of Pennsylvania had rainfall amounts that ranged mainly between 0.5 inches to slightly over an inch while the western half of the state had rainfall amounts mostly under a half-inch. Over the past 180 days, 64 counties in Pennsylvania had cumulative precipitation between 25% below and 25% above normal. Union and Philadelphia Counties had cumulative precipitation for this period between 26 and 50% above normal, and Cameron County has a 180-day precipitation amount between 26 and 50% below normal.

Flow enhancements are seen for most streams in the Delaware River Basin since Monday. The exceptions are the Lehigh River Basin and Crum Creek Basin. The Lehigh River Basin shows mixed enhancements and recessions while Crum Creek Basin is holding fairly even. The mainstem Delaware River at Trenton is up from 8,550 to 10,200 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is up from 186 to 199 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 2,860 to 2,440 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is up from 3,000 to 3,290 cfs. and the Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is up from 251 to 324 cfs. Almost every stream gauge in the Delaware River Basin is at above normal flow for October 7.

In the Susquehanna River Basin there have been mainly flow recessions over the past three days. Tunkhannock Creek Basin, West Conewago Creek Basin, Lackawanna River Basin and Conestoga River Basin show flow enhancement trends, while mixed rises and recessions are seen in the Juniata River Basin and Swatara Creek Basins. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 4,600 to 3,570 cfs. at Towanda, down from 8,050 to 6,660 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre and down from 22,800 to 20,200 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 1,560 to 953 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 4,270 to 2,740 cfs. at Williamsport and down from 6,410 to 4,920 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River at Newport is down from 2,670 to 2,000 cfs. and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is up from 507 to 629 cfs. About 70% of the gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin has combined flow enhancements and recessions since October 4. The mainstem Allegheny River, Ohio River and Monongahela River Basin shows increasing gauges while mixed rises and falls are seen in the French Creek Basin and Clarion River Basin. The rest of the Ohio River Basin shows mainly receding trends. The Allegheny River at Natrona is up from 3,350 to 3,630 cfs. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is up from 6,770 to 8,000 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is down from 723 to 560 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is up from 2,060 to 3,680 cfs. and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is down from 656 to 555 cfs. About 95% of stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for October 7.

Since October 4, 25 counties with monitoring wells show a water level rise for 13 counties and a drop for 12. Water level rises range from 0.02 to 5.71 ft. with an average increase of 1.04 ft. Decreases range from 0.02 to 2.44 ft. with an average drop of 0.36 ft.

The forecast through October 11 includes possible light rain totaling under 0.25 inches over the northwest quarter of the state. For the period October 11 to 16, light rain can be expected over most of the state varying from about 0.3 inches in northern tier counties and tapering to little or nothing along the southern border. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be close to normal.