

# *Watershed* MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**October 12, 1999**

Over the past five days Pennsylvania had rainfall totals ranging from about 1.25 inches along the southern border to about 0.5 inches in the northern tier counties. Precipitation records over the past six months show six counties with totals from 26 to 50% below normal, sixty counties with totals from 25% below to 25% above normal, and one county with totals between 26 and 50% above normal.

Most of the streams in the Delaware River Basin show flow enhancements since last Thursday. The exceptions are the mainstem Delaware River that shows a receding trend, and Bush Kill Basin, Brodhead Creek Basin, Frankford Creek Basin, Crum Creek Basin and Ridley Creek Basin that are all holding fairly even. The mainstem Delaware River at Trenton is down from 10,200 to 9,580 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is up from 199 to 302 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is up from 2,440 to 3,710 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is up from 3,290 to 4,450 cfs. and Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is up from 324 to 382 cfs. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for October 12.

In the Susquehanna River Basin most streams also show flow enhancements over the last five days. The mainstem Susquehanna River, Chemung River Basin and Towanda Creek Basin have generally receded during this period. Penns Creek Basin is holding about even. The West Branch Susquehanna River Basin shows mixed gauge changes with the mainstem West Branch Susquehanna showing enhancements in headwater areas and recessions further downstream. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 3,570 to 2,960 cfs. at Towanda, down from 6,660 to 5,890 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre and down from 20,200 to 18,400 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 953 to 788 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 2,740 to 2,370 cfs. at Williamsport and down from 4,920 to 4,150 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River at Newport is up from 2,000 to 2,800 cfs. and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is up from 629 to 917 cfs. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin also has mostly flow enhancements since last Thursday. The exceptions are the Oswayo Creek Basin, Kinzua Creek Basin, Conewango Creek Basin, Brokenstraw Creek Basin and Oil Creek Basin that are holding mostly even, while recessions are seen in the French Creek Basin and the upper mainstem Allegheny River.

The Allegheny River at Natrona is up from 3,630 to 3,920 cfs. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is up from 8,000 to 13,300 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is about even from 560 to 554 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is up from 3,680 to 9,370 cfs. and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is up from 555 to 740 cfs. About 60% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below

normal flow for October 12.

Since October 7, 25 counties with monitoring wells show a water level rise for 14 counties and a drop for 11. Water level rises range from 0.02 to 0.59 ft. with an average increase of 0.25 ft. Decreases range from 0.05 to 4.93 ft. with an average drop of 0.98 ft.

A total of about 0.10 to 0.50 inches of rain is expected through October 16 for the northwest half of the state. For the period October 16 to 21, another 0.5 to 1.0 inches of rain is expected for the northwest. The southeast half of Pennsylvania expected to receive under a half-inch of rain for this period. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be normal to somewhat above normal.