

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

November 15, 1999

In the past six days there again was very little precipitation across the state. During the period November 9-14, an average precipitation amount of probably less than a tenth of an inch occurred over the northern quarter of the Commonwealth. Over the past 24 hours, extremely scattered light precipitation averaging about a tenth of an inch was seen over areas in west-central and eastern parts. Less than 5% of the area of Pennsylvania had measurable precipitation since yesterday.

All major streams in the Delaware River Basin show flow recessions since November 9. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 7,730 to 5,610 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 168 to 141 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 1,900 to 1,510 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 1,760 to 1,280 cfs. at Philadelphia and Brandywine Creek is down from 231 to 213 cfs. at Chadds Ford.

About 80% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

The Susquehanna River Basin shows receding trends on almost all major streams since last Tuesday. The one exception is the West Conewago Creek with a flow enhancement. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 3,090 to 2,980 cfs. at Towanda. It is down from 5,310 to 4,470 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 13,600 to 9,530 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 1,310 to 924 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 2,170 to 1,560 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 2,860 to 2,210 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 1,400 to 1,160 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 321 to 280 cfs. at Conestoga. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for November 15.

The Ohio River Basin also shows all receding trends over the past six days with one exception. Little Pine Creek has a slight flow enhancement. The Allegheny River is down from 12,200 to 6,430 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 18,600 to 10,500 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 611 to 578 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 4,550 to 3,300 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 881 to 758 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

Since November 9, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for six counties and drops for 21. Water level rises range from 0.03 to 0.66 ft. with an average increase of 0.18 ft. Decreases range from 0.01 to 3.50 ft. (Carbon County) with an average drop of 0.57 ft. Well readings for Dauphin and Philadelphia counties were taken yesterday, November 14.

Over the next five days, an average of about 0.3 inches of precipitation is expected over the northwestern half of the state. For the period November 19 to 24, an average of slightly over 0.1 inches of precipitation is forecast for all but the extreme north. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be close to normal.