Watershed MANAGEMENT 

# Drought Information Center

**December 6, 1999**

From December 2 to 5 there was light precipitation over the northwest half of the state, averaging about a tenth-inch for the affected areas, but leaving southeastern areas dry. Over the past 24 hour period most of Pennsylvania received about a quarter-inch of rain.

The Delaware River Basin shows flow recessions for most major streams since December 2. The exceptions are flow enhancements in Neshaminy Creek and Frankford Creek Basins, while the Ridley and Chester Creek Basins are holding about even. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 13,400 to 8,660 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 355 to 340 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 3,090 to 2,140 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 2,770 to 2,090 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 301 to 293 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 70% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above below normal flow for December 6.

The overall flow recession trend is repeated for the Susquehanna River Basin since Friday. The Codorus Creek Basin shows flow enhancements while streams in Wapwallopen and Yellow Breeches Creek Basins show little change. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 10,200 to 8,580 cfs. at Towanda, down from 15,000 to 10,900 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 38,700 to 22,800 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 5,640 to 3,690 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 9,570 to 6,010 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 11,500 to 7,220 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 3,170 to 2,380 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 371 to 316 cfs. at Conestoga. About 75% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

Over the past three days, the Ohio River Basin shows a mixed bag of flow enhancements, recessions and little or no change scenarios. Mixed gauge readings are seen on the mainstem Allegheny River and in the French Creek, Monongahela River and Beaver River Basins. Oswayo Creek, Redbank Creek, Mahoning Creek, Crooked Creek and Kiskiminetas River Basins show mainly flow recessions, while gauges in the Buffalo Creek Basin are holding about even. Other streams in the Ohio River Basin show mainly flow enhancements. The Allegheny River is down from 19,900 to 17,000 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 28,900 to 23,300 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 3,980 to 2,070 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 7,350 to 3,610 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 2,170 to 1,560 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since December 2, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 13 counties and drops

for 14. Increases range from 0.02 to 1.51 ft. with an average rise of 0.34 ft. Decreases range from 0.02 to 3.46 ft. (Pike County) with an average drop of 0.69 ft.

Over the next four days, precipitation totaling between a quarter and half an inch is expected over the entire state. For the period December 10 to 15, between 1.5 and two inches of precipitation is forecast for the all of Pennsylvania with heavier amounts likely in the northwest quarter of the Commonwealth. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be mainly above normal.