

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

December 9, 1999

From December 6 to 8 there was moderate precipitation in southeastern counties. Amounts for this area averaged about 0.40 inches, and could be described as bounded by an imaginary line from the Maryland to the New Jersey border, and passing through Lancaster and Easton. The rest of Pennsylvania had very light scattered precipitation during this period. Maximum amounts were a tenth of an inch with the heaviest concentration in the northeast. Over the past 24 hour period there was no measurable precipitation in the Commonwealth.

The Delaware River Basin shows varying flow trends throughout the Basin since December 6. Flow enhancements are seen in Neshaminy Creek, Ridley Creek, Tohickon Creek and Chester Creek Basins, while Lackawaxen Creek, Brodhead Creek, Lehigh River, and Frankford Creek Basins show flow recessions. Gauges in Bush Kill and Crum Creek Basins are holding fairly even while mixed changes are seen in the Schuylkill River Basin. Mainstem Delaware River flows are not available this morning. The Lackawaxen River is down from 340 to 288 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 2,140 to 2,090 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is up from 2,090 to 2,330 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is up from 293 to 332 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 60% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for December 9.

A general flow recession trend is seen in the Susquehanna River Basin since Monday. The mainstem Susquehanna River and the Codorus Creek Basin shows mixed gauge changes while streams in the Yellow Breeches and Wapwallopen Creek Basins are holding fairly even. Flow enhancements are seen in the West Conewego Creek and Conestoga River Basins. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 8,580 to 8,360 cfs. at Towanda, up from 10,900 to 11,800 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 22,800 to 20,900 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 3,690 to 3,290 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 6,010 to 5,010 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 7,220 to 6,260 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 2,380 to 2,070 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is up from 316 to 428 cfs. at Conestoga. About 95% 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 general flow recession trend. Mixed gauge readings are seen on the mainstem Allegheny River and in the French Creek and Monongahela River Basins. Beaver River and Raccoon Creek Basins show mainly flow enhancements, while gauges in the Conewango and Redbank Creek Basins show little change. The Allegheny River is down slightly from 17,000 to 16,900 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 23,300 to 21,000 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 2,070 to 723 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 3,610 to 5,360 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 1,560 to 1,830 cfs. at

Beaver Falls. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since December 6, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for nine counties and drops for 18. Increases range from 0.01 to 0.93 ft. with an average rise of 0.22 ft. Decreases range from 0.03 to 2.72 ft. (Carbon County) with an average drop of 0.35 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 13 to 18, between 0.5 and one inch of precipitation is forecast for all of Pennsylvania with heavier amounts likely in the southwest. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be mainly above normal.