

# *Watershed* MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**December 14, 1999**

From December 9 to 13 there was moderate precipitation that ranged from about 0.3 to 0.7 inches in all but the northeastern quarter of the state. The northeast had light precipitation during this period ranging from zero to about 0.3 inches. Over the past 24 hour period there was an average of about a quarter-inch of precipitation over about 75% of the state. Dry areas were found in eastern, north central and south central counties.

The Delaware River Basin shows mostly flow enhancements since December 9. Flow recessions are seen on the mainstem Delaware River, and in the Lackawaxen River Basin, Bush Kill Basin and Brodhead Creek Basin. Changes on the Delaware River are measured from December 7 readings. There are mixed to steady flow trends in the Lehigh River Basin. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 8,840 (12/7) to 6,600 cfs. at Riegelsville. The Lackawaxen River is down from 288 to 244 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 2,090 to 1,780 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is up from 2,330 to 2,550 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is up from 332 to 689 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 60% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for December 14.

Mixed gauge changes are seen in the Susquehanna River Basin since last Friday. The mainstem Susquehanna and West Branch Susquehanna Rivers show a receding trend. Most upper basin tributary streams also show recessions, while most of the lower basin tributaries have flow enhancements. Streams in Penns Creek, East Mahantango Creek and Conodoguinet Creek Basins are holding rather even while mixed gauge changes are seen in the Juniata River Basin. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 8,360 to 6,740 cfs. at Towanda, down from 11,800 to 9,070 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 20,900 to 17,600 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 3,290 to 2,700 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 5,010 to 4,110 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 6,260 to 4,890 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is holding even at 2,070 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is up from 428 to 485 cfs. at Conestoga. Almost all of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

Over the past five days, the Ohio River Basin shows a general flow enhancement trend. The only exceptions are slightly reduced gauges in Conewango Creek and Broken Straw Creek Basins, while streams in Oswayo Creek and Kinzua Creek Basins are holding fairly even. The Allegheny River is up from 16,900 to 17,900 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is up from 21,000 to 36,800 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 723 to 1,480 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 5,360 to 19,200 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 1,830 to 2,330 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 80% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for

today's date.

Since December 9, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 14 counties and drops for 12. The Wayne County reading is unchanged. Increases range from 0.02 to 0.92 ft. with an average rise of 0.30 ft. Decreases range from 0.02 to 3.65 ft. (Pike County) with an average drop of 0.89 ft.

Moderately heavy precipitation is forecast for Pennsylvania over the next five days. Totals should range from over two inches in the extreme west and northwest, and taper to about a half-inch along the New Jersey border. For the period December 19 to 24, precipitation totaling between a tenth and half an inch is expected over the entire state with the heavier concentrations likely to the north and west. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be close to normal.