

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

July 9, 2002

On June 14, Governor Schweiker lifted the drought emergency for six counties and restored 14 other counties to normal status. Dauphin, Perry and Wayne counties were upgraded to drought watch status and Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties were upgraded to drought warning status. These counties are indicated on the drought status map and in the news release at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought>.

Through the first 8 days of July, county precipitation totals range from 0.0 inches, for 55 counties in the state, to 0.3 inches (Indiana, Fayette and Westmoreland Counties). Departures from normal for the first 23 days of June range from -1.0 inch, for 18 counties in the state, to -0.6 inches (Bradford County). For the past 365 days, precipitation departures range from -17.2 inches (Philadelphia County) to +2.2 inches (Bradford County). Twelve other counties, Lancaster, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Franklin, Perry, Bucks, Fulton, Bedford, Bucks, Berks, York and Cumberland have departures for the last 365 days that exceed -10.0 inches.

As of this morning, the daily streamflow readings were below normal across most of the state. Daily streamflow readings across the state range from 6% of normal streamflow to approximately 150% normal streamflow. Instantaneous streamflow readings of 161 gages for July 8th at 9:45 a.m. indicate that there was 32 gages with flows less than the 25th percentile, 19 at less than the 10th percentile and 3 at record lows.

The 30-day streamflow duration graphs for July 9th reflect the affects that the lack of precipitation combination with evaporation and transpiration have had on streamflows the past week. Most gages are still in the normal range, however the 30-day values continue to drop at a significant rate. The lowest flows are occurring in the southeastern and south-central portions of the state. In the Delaware Basin all 18 stream gages are decreasing, with 3 gages in watch. In the Susquehanna River Basin, all of the 31 gages also show decreases in their 30-day average, with one duration graph in emergency, one in warning and four in watch. While all of the gages in the Ohio River Basin are in the normal range, they are dropping.

The 30-day duration graphs for July 9th indicate that groundwater levels continue to drop as evaporation, transpiration and minimal rainfall affect groundwater recharge. In the Delaware Basin, all 13 groundwater-monitoring gages are decreasing, with 6 in emergency. In the Susquehanna Basin 20 of 21 gages continue to decrease with one well in emergency and 2 in watch. In the Ohio River Basin, all 13 gages are dropping with one well in watch and another in warning.

