

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

December 23, 1998

Yesterday, the Department approved a request by the City of Cumberland, MD for a reduction in the required conservation release from their Lake Gordon Dam, from 2.2 million gallons per day (mgd) to 1.1 mgd. The approval was conditioned upon their imposition of mandatory restrictions on nonessential water uses, and upon several periodic reporting requirements.

Precipitation from December 21 had ended statewide by yesterday morning, and only widely scattered showers remained during the 24-hour period ending this morning. A few scattered counties saw 0.2 inches or less yesterday.

Stream flows, which had shown some improvement by yesterday as a result of the precipitation in the Allegheny and West Branch Susquehanna River areas, are already receding rapidly by this morning. The West Branch Susquehanna River at Renovo increased rapidly yesterday from 531 cubic feet per second (cfs) to over 5500 cfs, exceeding the normal of 3450 cfs, but had already receded to below 5000 cfs by this morning. The Allegheny River at Eldred peaked yesterday afternoon above 2500 cfs, well above the normal of 949, but has already receded to 2250 cfs. Public water supply systems with surface storage should realize some recovery in those drainage areas. Other systems will see only very temporary relief while stream flows remain elevated for a few days.

Ground water may experience slight recovery in the areas of greatest rainfall concentrations, centered in the Clearfield County area and decreasing rapidly within a 75-150 mile radius. Ground water monitoring wells showed improvements of 1-3 inches at best by this morning.