

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

December 28, 1998

A large high-pressure system controlled Pennsylvania's weather over the Christmas holiday weekend resulting in virtually no measurable precipitation across the Commonwealth.

Streams flows in the Susquehanna River basin declined significantly in the upper reaches of the watershed over the weekend as the impact of last week's precipitation worked its way through the river system. Stream flows fell most noticeably in the West Branch basin. For example, the flow in the West Branch at Williamsport at 6:15 this morning was only 31% of the flow recorded on December 24. By contrast, the North Branch and main stem Susquehanna River flows generally held steady or increased over the weekend.

Stream flows in the Ohio River basin fell appreciably over the weekend. As predicted in the December 24 report, the Ohio River began a sharp decline over the Christmas holiday. The flow in the Ohio River at Sewickley this morning was 8,540 cfs, compared to 32,800 cfs recorded last Thursday. Allegheny River flows fell to 40%-50% of December 24 recorded flows.

Delaware River Basin flows are also 30%-50% of normal for this time of year. The Delaware River Basin Commission has scheduled a public hearing in Trenton, New Jersey on January 5 to receive public comment regarding a possible drought emergency declaration.