

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

January 21, 1999

The past 24 hours brought limited precipitation, confined to a few of the southern tier counties, with totals less than 0.1 inch.

In the Delaware River basin, stream flows in the entire main stem are up slightly from yesterday, reflecting previous runoff from tributary streams. All tributary streams in the Schuylkill, Lehigh and Lackawaxen watersheds, including the main stems of those rivers have receded by this morning. Flows in the upper basin remain well above normal, while flows in the Schuylkill and lower basin are closer to or below normal this morning.

In the Susquehanna River basin, flows in the main stem Susquehanna are up slightly from yesterday, except at Sunbury. Tributary flows in the upper basin are declining, but remain above normal. In the West Branch basin, upper basin tributary and main stem flows are declining, while lower basin tributary and main stem flows are mixed, but predominately declining. Some smaller tributary flows have receded below normal, while most streams remain above normal yet this morning. Juniata basin flows continue declining and are nearly all below normal. In the lower Susquehanna basin, tributary streams continue sharp declines, but remain above normal.

In the Ohio River basin, upper Allegheny River main stem flows are receding while lower main stem flows continue to rise, again reflecting previous runoff from tributary streams. Upper Allegheny tributaries are nearing peak or receding, while lower Allegheny tributaries are nearly all on the decline. Monongahela main stem and tributary flows are all declining. Beaver basin main stem and tributary flows are generally declining. The Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 69,500 cubic feet per second yesterday to 59,600 today.

Ground water is showing minor improvement in about half of the monitoring wells this morning, while the others have begun to decline again. Ground water remains in emergency levels throughout most of the Commonwealth.

Forecasts are for about 0.5 inch of precipitation during the next three days, with five-day totals reaching about 1.5-2.0 inches. The 5-10 day outlook adds another 1.5-2.0 inches.