

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

February 3, 1999

Precipitation during the past 24 hours totaled 0.0-0.25 inches west of the main stem Susquehanna River and 0.25-1.0 inches east of the river, with the heaviest concentrations of 0.5-1.0 inches occurring in the Delaware basin below the Lackawaxen.

Stream flows in the main stem Delaware River are nearly identical to yesterday, with the flow at Riegelsville even and the flow at Trenton up slightly from 9810 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 9870 cfs, compared to a normal of 9050 cfs. All tributary flows, both in the headwaters and main stems, are increased significantly in reaction to the past 48 hours' precipitation. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is up from 393 to 1170 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is up from 3130 to 5880 cfs. The Schuylkill at Philadelphia is up from 2910 to 7830 cfs. Christina watershed gages are all up as well, although four of the eleven gages remain below normal this morning.

New York City reservoir storage rose to 21.4 billion gallons above the "drought warning" rule curve yesterday, fulfilling the required five consecutive day 15-billion gallon surplus above the curve to automatically return operations to normal. The New York City allowable diversion, which had been reduced to 560 million gallons per day in response to drought warning conditions, returned to 800 mgd, and New Jersey's diversion through the Delaware and Raritan Canal returned to 100 mgd, from 75. The target flow in the Delaware River at Montague returned to 1750 cfs, from 1550, and the target flow at Trenton returned to 3000 cfs, from 2700.

Susquehanna River main stem flows have increased above Sunbury, in response to the precipitation, while Harrisburg remains even and Marietta decreased from 51,800 to 48,200 cfs. Upper basin tributaries are increased noticeably from yesterday. In the West Branch watershed, a few upper headwater streams are declining already and main stem tributaries and the river itself are up, as the runoff proceeds down basin. The Lewisburg gage rose from 13,200 to 16,000 cfs by this morning. The Juniata tributaries and main stem are up, as are the lower Susquehanna tributaries.

In the Ohio River basin, Allegheny, Monongahela and Beaver River main stem and tributary flows are increased as well from yesterday, with a few exceptions in the upper reaches of the Kiskiminetas and Monongahela watersheds. The Ohio River at Sewickley is up from 61,600 cfs yesterday to 65,800 cfs today. A few gages in the Monongahela watershed remain slightly below normal this morning, while the rest of the Ohio basin is generally well above normal.

Ground water is predominately on the increase and should remain so, as the past two days' precipitation penetrates the soil mantle. Additional end-of-January data received this morning confirms

that the Erie County monitoring well remains in "emergency" status, as we assumed yesterday.

The forecast for the next three days indicates the possibility of up to 0.2 inches of precipitation in the form of showers and flurries. The five-day forecast indicates a total of up to 1 inch in the western Ohio basin, with a total of up to 0.25-0.5 inches elsewhere. The ten-day forecast adds another 0.5-1.0 inch statewide. Temperatures are to be much above normal during the 6-10 day period.