

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

March 5, 1999

The past 24 hours had precipitation concentrated mainly in the central part of the state, with amounts averaging about 0.15 inches. This would include mostly the Susquehanna, and Northeast Ohio Basins. Several stations in the southwestern part of the state recorded precipitation amounts up to 0.10 inches.

Flows in the mainstream Delaware have increased significantly, reflecting yesterday's precipitation event; Montague increased from 5,550 to 16,700 cfs, and Trenton increased from 13,400 to 16,300 cfs. The Lackawaxen at Hawley, Bush Kill, and the Lehigh River at Bethlehem have increased flows, as have the Schuylkill River at both Pottstown and Philadelphia. Brodhead Creek and the Christina River Basin show generally decreasing flows. Flows in the Christina remain generally below the long-term median.

There was a significant flow increase on the mainstream of the Susquehanna River during the past 24 hours. Wilkes-Barre increased from 13,800 to 60,000 cfs, and Harrisburg increased from 22,800 to 67,200 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna showed an increase from 7,100 to 11,600 cfs at Renovo, and from 23,000 to 35,000 cfs at Williamsport. Juniata River basin discharges were generally lower than the previous day. Conestoga River and Swatara Creek basin gauges showed generally significant rises, as did the West Conewago Creek near Manchester, and the Yellow Breeches Creek near Camp Hill.

Significant rises were recorded on many gauges in the Ohio Basin in the past 24 hours.

The Ohio mainstream at Sewickley increased from 53,100 to 80,300 cfs. The Allegheny River at Kiting and Natrona increased from 17,700 to 29,400 cfs, and from 23,600 to 34,300 cfs, respectively. The Monongahela River at Braddock rose from 30,400 to 44,500 cfs. Similar increases were recorded on major tributary streams such as the Kiskiminetas River, the Beaver River, and the Youghiogheny River.

Well levels throughout the state were slightly lower yesterday morning except in Allegheny and Berks counties. Changes were less than a foot.

The three day forecast calls for 0.05 to 0.50 inches of precipitation, increasing in intensity from Southwest to Northeast across the state. The five day forecast calls for about an additional 1.50 inches over the Northern Delaware Basin, and Northwestern section of the state. The rest of the Commonwealth should get about an additional 0.80 inches. Temperatures should be about normal, in the 35 to 40 degree range.

