

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**April 19, 1999**

The past week brought little precipitation to most of the Delaware River basin, with totals of about 0.1-0.2 inches in the southeastern counties and generally 0-0.1 inch in the upper and middle basin. The Susquehanna River basin fared a little better, receiving about 0.1-0.3 inch in the lower basin and about 0-0.2 inch in the upper and middle basin, with the heavier quantities in the western side of the basin. The Ohio River basin received about 0.3-0.8 inches of precipitation; again, the heavier quantities were in the western side of the basin. Both short- and long-term deficits remain throughout the upper and middle Delaware basin, while in the Susquehanna and Ohio basins, we have short-term surpluses. Six-month deficits remain, statewide.

In the Delaware River basin, stream flows in the main stem Delaware River have declined since last Monday at all gages. Flows at Trenton are down from 12,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 9750 cfs this morning. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down from 504 to 486 cfs; the Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 2860 to 2000 cfs; and the Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down from 3900 to 2250 cfs. In the Christina River watershed, Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford declined from 993 to 312 cfs. Basinwide, nearly all gages are recording flows below long-term normal.

In the Susquehanna River basin, flows in the main stem Susquehanna River are also down at all gages. Flows at Harrisburg decreased from 78,900 to 44,400 cfs during the week. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge declined from 622 to 495 cfs, while flows in the West Branch at Lewisburg are down from 28,200 to 14,700 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is down from 21,500 to 6580 cfs. In the lower basin, the Conestoga River at Conestoga declined from 917 to 569 cfs. Except in the western part of the upper basin, most gages are below normal.

In the Ohio River basin, flows in the main stem Allegheny River are also down, with flows at Natrona decreased from 50,700 to 34,600 cfs. Flows in the Kiskiminetas River watershed have all declined, except in the lower main stem of the river at Vandergrift, where an increase from 7300 to 9720 is evident. Monongahela River watershed flows have declined markedly, as evidenced by the river at Braddock, down from 33,500 to 12,400 cfs. The Beaver River has likewise declined, down from 11,100 to 4980 cfs at Beaver Falls. Gages are above normal throughout the basin.

Six of eight daily monitoring wells in the Delaware basin declined during the week. In the Susquehanna basin, six of nine declined, and in the Ohio basin, the three wells increased. At mid-month, four of the daily monitoring wells remained in "watch", and three remained in "emergency", including Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne Counties.

The five-day forecast indicates 0.5-1.0 inch of precipitation statewide. The 5-10 day outlook adds 2.0-3.0 inches, with the heavier quantities indicated for the northern tier and central Susquehanna basin areas, with temperatures to be in the normal range of 50-55 degrees.

Barely holding our own in precipitation for the week, and losing ground in the Delaware basin, we remain under a statewide drought "watch."