

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

June 11, 1999

Yesterday, the Department declared a drought warning in the following 47 counties, generally comprising the Delaware, Susquehanna and Potomac River basins:

Adams	Clinton	Lehigh	Potter
Bedford	Columbia	Luzerne	Schuylkill
Berks	Cumberland	Lycoming	Snyder
Blair	Dauphin	Mifflin	Somerset
Bradford	Delaware	Monroe	Sullivan
Bucks	Franklin	Montgomery	Susquehanna
Cambria	Fulton	Montour	Tioga
Cameron	Huntingdon	Northampton	Union
Carbon	Juniata	Northumberland	Wayne
Centre	Lackawanna	Perry	Wyoming
Chester	Lancaster	Philadelphia	York
Clearfield	Lebanon	Pike	x

All other counties remain in a drought watch.

The state did receive some precipitation yesterday, albeit minimal in most areas. Totals were generally well under 0.1 inch, mostly in the form of mist, drizzle or light showers.

Stream flows continue well below normal, statewide. In the Delaware River basin, main stem Delaware River flows declined at all gages except Trenton where flows remain at 3940 cubic feet per second (cfs). The Lackawaxen River at Hawley declined from 99 to 92 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem decreased from 808 to 797 cfs and continues below its record low at Glendon. The Schuylkill River generally declined as well, although at Philadelphia, flows rose somewhat from 487 to 534 cfs. In the Christina River watershed, Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford continued its slide, down from 165 to 150 cfs.

In the Susquehanna River basin, the main stem Susquehanna River declined at all gages, and continues its record low flow at Marietta, while the Harrisburg gage, at 6430 cfs, is only 30 cfs above its daily record flow. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge declined from 130 to 125 cfs. The West Branch at Lewisburg continued its slide from 1760 to 1680 cfs, 180 below its previous record of 1860 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is down from 1010 to 996, and in the lower basin, the Conestoga River at Conestoga fell from 171 to 165, also well under its record of 216.

In the Ohio River basin, the Ohio River at Sewickley decreased from 8000 to 6670 cfs. The Allegheny River main stem declined at all gages, down from 4040 to 3520 cfs at Natrona. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift fell slightly from 566 to 560, now below its record of 574 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock fell from 1790 to 1600, continuing below its record of 1750 cfs. The Beaver River at Beaver Falls held steady at 740 cfs, also below its record of 762.

Ground water declined statewide, with the exception of Adams, Dauphin and Huntingdon Counties, which showed minor increases.

The forecast for the next few days indicates a possibility of thundershowers late in the period, with a total of only about 0.25 inches in the southwest, and up to 0.5 in the northern and eastern areas of the state during the next 5 days. The 6-10 day outlook is for 1.5-2.0 inches of additional rain.

With the declaration of warning in 47 counties, we will be preparing daily drought reports until midweek next week. We will also be closely monitoring developing conditions in southwestern Pennsylvania, where some stream flows are near or below record levels.