

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

June 22, 1999

Precipitation yesterday was confined to the southeastern quarter of the state, with totals increasing from essentially 0 inch in Franklin County to about 0.35 inch in Philadelphia, and from 0 in Centre County to about 0.1 inch in Northampton County.

Stream flows in the Delaware River basin have fallen generally to below the levels of Monday last week, as any evidence of last week's precipitation has exited the basin. The Delaware River at Trenton is down from 3310 cubic feet per second (cfs) last Monday to 3190 cfs, as of yesterday. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley today, is even with last Monday at 83 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 1140 to 764 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Pottstown declined from 581 to 567; the Philadelphia gage appears to be in error at 22 cfs. In the Christina River watershed, Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 198 to 167 cfs, despite rain in that area again yesterday.

In the Susquehanna River basin, flows are likewise below last Monday's. The main stem at Harrisburg is down from 6440 to 5930 cfs, below the record of 5950 cfs. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge is down from 105 to 100 cfs. The West Branch at Lewisburg decreased from 1510 to 1450, below its record of 1600 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport shows some remaining improvement from 925 to 1020. In the lower basin, the Conestoga River at Conestoga is also higher at 189 cfs, compared to 160 last Monday.

In the Ohio River basin, the Allegheny River is down at nearly all gages, with flows at Natrona decreased from 3460 to 3300 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is down from 548 to 512 cfs, hovering near its record low of 495 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is down from 2080 to 1840, also near its record of 1740 cfs. The Beaver River at Beaver Falls shows some improvement, from 690 to 845, while the Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 5720 to 5100, near its record low of 4840 cfs.

Ground water levels at daily monitoring sites were down in all counties except Lebanon and Sullivan, where minor increases are noted from last Monday.

Overall, last week's rain is through the system and provided only temporary and very marginal relief. The forecast shows little or no precipitation for the next five days. The 6-10 day outlook indicates only 0.5-1.0 inch statewide.

