

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**July 28, 1999**

Since our last drought report on July 22, most of the state has received rain. The exceptions are the extreme southeastern area and the extreme northwestern area along Lake Erie. The upper Ohio and middle and lower Susquehanna basin areas fared best, with totals in the 0.5-1.0 inch range. Along the northern and southern tiers, totals were generally about 0.2-0.6 inches. In the Delaware basin, totals ranged from about 0.2-0.7 inches along the Susquehanna basin divide to 0-0.2 inch along the Delaware River.

In the Delaware River basin, stream flows are mixed in the upper basin, reflecting some of the rains in that area, but are noticeably down in the lower basin, reflecting the absence of rainfall in that area. The main stem at Riegelsville is flowing at 3250 cubic feet per second (cfs) this morning compared to 3030 last Thursday. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down from 45 to 24 cfs. The Lehigh River, showing mixed numbers throughout the watershed, is down slightly from 529 to 520 cfs at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down to 89 cfs, near its record low of 75 cfs for the day. In the Christina River watershed, flows are down as well, although we have no reading for Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford this morning.

In the Susquehanna River basin, flows are decreased at all main stem gages on the Susquehanna River. Harrisburg flows are down from 4010 cfs to 3560 cfs. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge is down from 64 to 46 cfs, while the West Branch Susquehanna at Lewisburg, reflecting some rain in the watershed is up, from 968 to 1140 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport decreased slightly from 728 to 717 cfs, and the Conestoga River at Conestoga reflects general trends in the lower basin, down from 106 to 94 cfs, well below its record low of 159 cfs for the day.

In the Ohio River basin, flows in the Allegheny River are increased at all gages, again reflecting the rainfall in the watershed, with flows at Natrona up from 3030 to 3520 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is likewise up, from 221 to 464 cfs, while the Monongahela River at Braddock reflects the lighter rains in the lower Ohio basin and has decreased from 1600 to 1130 cfs, well under its record low of 1480 cfs for today. The Beaver River at Beaver Falls is even, at 917 cfs, while the Ohio River at Sewickley is up marginally from 4680 to 4760 cfs.

Ground water levels continued their seasonal decline at most daily monitoring wells. Exceptions include Franklin, Huntingdon, Snyder and Warren County wells, which recorded very slight increases.

The next three days offer a chance of showers and thunderstorms in much of the state, with the 5-day outlook indicating a total of 0.5-1.5 inches statewide. The 6-10 day outlook adds another 0.25-1.0 inch,

with the lower quantities along the southern tier. All these numbers appear to represent high localized values rather than overall average rainfall amounts, so with only three days left, it appears that July will close as our fourth consecutive month with rainfall deficits in nearly every county.