

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

August 9, 1999

Between August 6 and 8, precipitation was limited mainly to the southwest quadrant of the state with an average amount of perhaps 0.20 inches. The past 24-hour period brought rain to about 80% of the Commonwealth. This latest storm ranged up to about 0.5 inches of precipitation, and averaged only about 0.35 inches for the affected area. Areas along the central northern tier counties, along the Ohio line, and in the south-central part of the state had no rain in the last 24-hour period.

Although there were no major changes in the Delaware Basin since Friday, there were minor flow improvements on the Schuylkill River. The mainstem Delaware at Trenton is essentially unchanged from 2,660 to 2,510 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is essentially unchanged from 21 to 23 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is up slightly from 520 to 559 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Pottstown is up from 294 to 376 cfs., and is up from 80 to 272 cfs. at Philadelphia. The Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is essentially unchanged from 52 to 53 cfs. With the exception of some headwater streams reflecting the rain on Sunday, streams remain substantially below normal flow for the date.

In the Susquehanna Basin, the only noteworthy changes are occasional rises from the recent storm. The Susquehanna River at Towanda is down slightly from 908 to 805 cfs. The Susquehanna River at Wilkes-Barre is essentially unchanged from 1,370 to 1,300 cfs., and also essentially unchanged at Harrisburg from 2,780 to 2,890 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna at Renovo is up from 367 to 411 cfs., and up at Williamsport from 568 to 671 cfs. The Juniata River is down at Huntingdon from 454 to 316 cfs., and essentially unchanged at Newport from 739 to 750 cfs. The Conestoga River at Conestoga is down from 70 to 63 cfs. Most streams remain well below normal flow for this date.

Except for some local rises, there are few, if any, important changes in the Ohio Basin. The mainstem Ohio at Sewickley is down from 6,090 to 5,360 cfs. The Allegheny River at Natrona is down from 4,090 to 2,760 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is down from 499 to 267 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is down from 1,930 to 1,550 cfs., and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is up from 953 to 1,120 cfs. Flows for most streams remain considerably below normal for August 9.

Of the 27 counties with monitoring wells, 22 showed a drop ranging from 0.03 to 2.65 ft., with the average drop being 0.27 ft. Five counties showed a water level rise; these ranged from 0.03 to 0.20 ft., with an average rise of 0.08 ft.

During the next five days, about an inch of rain is expected over the eastern third of the state, tapering off to about one-quarter inch along the Ohio line. For the period August 14 to 19, an additional inch of rain is expected across the entire state. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be about

normal.