

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

September 13, 1999

Since Friday, there has been very little rain in Pennsylvania. Between September 10 and 12, there was about a tenth of an inch of rainfall in Bucks and Philadelphia counties. Within the past 24 hours, the only rain in the Commonwealth occurred in a very small area around Northampton County that probably averaged less than a quarter inch and encompassed less than 5% of the area of the state.

In the Delaware River Basin, most streams show a receding trend since Friday as most of the runoff from last week's storms has moved out of the Basin; the only exceptions to this trend are the mainstem Delaware River and the Lackawaxen River Basin, which tend to hold fairly even. The mainstem Delaware River at Trenton is down slightly from 3,040 to 2,770 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is essentially even from 43 to 45 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 753 to 429 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down from 5,150 to 785 cfs., and the Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 522 to 87 cfs. About 80% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

The Susquehanna River Basin also shows mostly receding flow trends except for the Towanda Creek Basin, Tunkhannock Creek Basin, Lackawanna River Basin, Wapwallopen Creek Basin, and the middle reaches of the West Branch Susquehanna River Basin. Since September 10, the mainstem Susquehanna River at Towanda is down from 849 to 643 cfs. At Wilkes-Barre it is up from 1,330 to 1,420 cfs., and at Harrisburg it is down from 11,700 to 6,330 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 512 to 378 cfs. at Renovo, down from 609 to 514 cfs. at Lock Haven, and down from 188 to 97 cfs. at Williamsport. The Juniata River at Newport is down from 2,330 to 1,530 cfs., and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is down from 349 to 183 cfs. About 80% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin has mostly receding flow trends over the past three days. The Oswayo Creek, Kinzua Creek, Brokenstraw Creek, lower Kiskiminetas Creek Basin, and the lower Monongahela River Basin tend to be holding somewhat even. The Allegheny River at Natrona is down from 2,160 to 1,530 cfs. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 7,170 to 4,840 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is up from 224 to 459 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is holding even at 1,670 cfs., and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is down from 810 to 673 cfs. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

Since September 10, 26 counties with monitoring wells show a water level rise for five counties and a drop for 19. Water level rises range from 0.04 to 0.34 ft. with an average increase of 0.20 ft. Decreases range from 0.01 to 3.69 ft. with an average drop of 0.58 ft.

During the next five days, 0.25 to 0.75 inches of rainfall is expected over the state, with heavier amounts to the southeast; much heavier rain is possible depending on the track of hurricane Floyd. For the period September 18 to 23, average rainfall amounts of less than 0.25 inches is forecast for north central counties. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be normal to somewhat below normal.