

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

November 5, 1999

There was considerable precipitation in Pennsylvania since last Tuesday. For the period November 2 to 4, the western half of Pennsylvania averaged perhaps 1.75 inches of rain, with local amounts exceeding three inches in the extreme northwest. The eastern half of the state received an average of about 0.8 inches of rain for the same period, with the heaviest amounts toward the Delaware River. Over the past 24 hours there were scattered areas of light rain across the state. There was an average of about 0.10 inches of precipitation over two larger areas; one of these areas is in the extreme northwest and in the other is in the southwest. These two major areas of light rain account for less than 20% of the area of Pennsylvania.

Almost all the streams in the Delaware River Basin show flow enhancements since November 2. The only exception is Frankford Creek which is holding about even. The mainstem Delaware River is up from 4,790 to 12,100 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is up from 117 to 260 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is up from 1,180 to 3,460 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is up from 1,190 to 2,680 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is up from 219 to 272 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for November 5.

The Susquehanna River Basin shows flow enhancements on all major streams since Tuesday. The mainstem Susquehanna River is up from 2,140 to 5,480 cfs. at Towanda, up from 3,260 to 6,710 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre and up from 8,080 to 11,800 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 609 to 3,330 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 1,260 to 2,830 cfs. at Williamsport and up from 1,830 to 2,970 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is up from 1,040 to 3,020 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is up from 330 to 438 cfs. at Conestoga. However, about 60% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin likewise shows flow enhancements on all major streams in the past three days. The Allegheny River is up from 3,080 to 23,700 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is up from 7,480 to 37,200 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 499 to 1,660 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 2,910 to 12,000 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 555 to 2,950 cfs. at Beaver Falls. In contrast to earlier this week, about 70% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at above normal flow for today's date.

Since November 2, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 17 counties and drops for ten. Water level rises range from 0.01 to 8.23 ft. with an average increase of 1.11 ft. Decreases range from 0.04 to 0.48 ft. with an average drop of 0.17 ft. The Carbon and Potter County wells show water level rises of 5.57 and 8.23 ft. respectively. If these readings are called into question and

dropped from the analysis, the water level rises range from 0.01 to 0.96 ft. with an average increase of 0.34 ft. Well readings for Allegheny and Cameron Counties were taken yesterday, November 4.

No precipitation is expected for Pennsylvania until after November 9. For the period November 9 to 14, an average of about 0.25 inch of precipitation is expected over all but the southeast. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be about normal.