Watershed MANAGEMENT 

Drought Information Center

November 19, 1999

It remains generally dry in Pennsylvania. From November 15-18 there was measurable precipitation in only about five extreme western counties that totaled about a tenth of an inch. Over the past 24 hours there was extremely light scattered precipitation over the south and central Laurel Mountain area that encompassed less than 5% of the area of the state. Fifty Pennsylvania counties are at below 75% normal total monthly precipitation for this date.

Most streams in the Delaware River Basin show a general receding trend since Monday. Frankford Creek, Crum Creek and Ridley Creek are the exceptions that are holding fairly even. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 5,610 to 4,710 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 141 to 119 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 1,510 to 1,260 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 1,280 to 1,060 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 213 to 192 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 85% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

The Susquehanna River Basin likewise shows general flow recessions since November 15. The exceptions to this trend are slight flow enhancements in the lower Chemung River Basin and in the Codorus Creek Basin. Substantial flow increases are seen at several Juniata River Basin gauges, presumably because of releases from Raystown Dam. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 2,980 to 2,680 cfs. at Towanda. It is down from 4,470 to 3,900 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 9,530 to 9,030 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 924 to 814 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 1,560 to 1,670 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 2,210 to 2,110 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is up from 1,160 to 1,330 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 280 to 251 cfs. at Conestoga. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for November 19.

The Ohio River Basin mostly trends to flow recessions over the past four days, but there are more exceptions to this rule than in the other two major basins. There are flow enhancements in the Beaver River and Redbank Creek Basins, while Crooked Creek, Pine Creek, Chartiers Creek and Raccoon Creek are holding fairly even at their respective gauges. The Allegheny River is down from 6,430 to 5,290 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 10,500 to 7,070 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 578 to 530 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 3,300 to 2,720 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 758 to 990 cfs. at Beaver Falls. Almost all stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

Since November 15, 27 counties with monitoring wells show a water level rise for one county and

drops for 26. Pike County has a water level rise of 0.56 ft. Decreases range from 0.04 to 3.34 ft. (Carbon County) with an average drop of 0.49 ft.

Over the next four days, precipitation totaling less than a quarter-inch is expected in western and northwestern counties. For the period November 23 to 28, over a half-inch of precipitation is expected over the northern two-thirds of the state, with lower amounts likely toward the southern border. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be above normal.