

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

January 18, 2000

From January 13 to 17 there was light precipitation in Pennsylvania. The southern half of the state received practically no precipitation; the only exceptions were some widely scattered one-tenth and two-tenth inch readings in about four southwestern counties, and one tenth-inch reading in Delaware County. The northern half of the state had a more uniform distribution pattern for the same period and averaged a total precipitation amount of perhaps two-tenths inches; individual county readings for this area ranged from zero to four-tenths inches. During the past 24-hour period, there was essentially no measurable precipitation across the state.

In the Delaware River Basin, most streams are showing a recession trend since last Thursday. Bush Kill and Ridley Creek Basins are holding fairly even, flow enhancement is seen in Chester Creek Basin while mixed gauge changes are seen in Brodhead Creek and Schuylkill River Basins. No data is available for the mainstem Delaware River this morning. The Lackawaxen River is down from 552 to 263 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 2,650 to 1,380 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 3,240 to 1,410 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 344 to 178 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 50% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for January 18.

Compared to January 13, most streams in the Susquehanna River Basin are in the flow recession category. The Chemung River and Juniata River Basins have mixed gauge changes, and Wapwallopen Creek Basin shows flow enhancement. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 22,500 to 8,810 cfs. at Towanda, down from 27,800 to 16,500 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 38,300 to 28,700 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 5,080 to 2,990 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 8,320 to 5,770 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 10,100 to 7,250 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 2,400 to 1,590 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 474 to 330 cfs. at Conestoga. About 50% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin shows mainly flow recessions over the past five days. Exceptions to this rule are Raccoon Creek, Chartiers Creek, and Pine Creek Basins, which are holding fairly even, while mixed gauge changes are seen in the Kiskiminetas and Monongahela River Basins. The Ohio River data is unavailable this morning due to what appears to be an ice jam. The Allegheny River is down from 23,600 to 8,880 cfs. at Natrona. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 1,100 to 518 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 6,250 to 8,620 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 3,630 to 2,300 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 65% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since January 13, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for six counties and drops for 20. The last Allegheny County reading was made on January 13 and has therefore been excluded; the Warren County reading was made yesterday, January 17 at 19:00. Increases range from 0.01 to 2.26 ft. (Carbon County) with an average rise of 0.50 ft. Decreases range from 0.13 to 1.86 ft. (Potter County) with an average fall of 0.47 ft.

Between a quarter and a half-inch total precipitation is forecast for all of Pennsylvania over the next five days, with slightly higher amounts along the Ohio border. For the period January 23 to 28, between 1.5 and 2.0 inches total precipitation can be expected for most of the Commonwealth. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be below normal for the early part of the period and above normal for January 23 to 28.