

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

February 4, 2000

During the past 24 hours the clipper system that moved across Pennsylvania dumped up to 3.5 inches of snow, mainly in the western part of the state. Snowfall accumulations up to two inches were also seen in eastern and southeastern counties. Precipitation data prior to the past 24 hours period is not available from the web this morning.

In the Delaware River Basin, most streams are showing flow recessions since Tuesday. The mainstem Delaware River shows mixed gauge changes; it is down from 14,000 to 13,400 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 649 to 547 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 1,380 to 1,250 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 1,310 to 1,220 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 309 to 244 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 80% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for February 4.

Since February 1, the most common trend for the Susquehanna River Basin is flow recession. The Juniata River, Sherman Creek, Yellow Breeches Creek, West Branch Conewego Creek and Codorus Creek basins are holding rather steady. Mixed gauge changes are seen in the West Branch Susquehanna River Basin while flow enhancement is the rule for the Susquehanna River mainstem. The Susquehanna River is up from 4,480 to 4,860 cfs. at Towanda, holding even at 23,800 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and up from 42,000 to 47,400 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 2,340 to 2,660 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 3,380 to 3,450 cfs. at Williamsport, and up from 4,770 to 8,440 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 3,550 to 3,240 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 557 to 298 cfs. at Conestoga. About 75% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin shows mainly flow recessions over the past three days. Mixed gauge changes are seen in the Kiskiminetas River and Monongahela River basins. The mainstem Ohio River, Oil Creek, Redbank Creek, Crooked Creek, Buffalo Creek, Chartiers Creek and Raccoon Creek basins are holding fairly even. The Allegheny River is down from 6,250 to 5,710 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is up marginally from 10,800 to 11,400 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 1,870 to 2,140 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 3,260 to 3,910 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 1,440 to 1,260 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since February 1, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for two counties and drops for 21. The increases are 0.11 ft. (Allegheny County) and 1.92 ft. (Franklin County) with an average rise of 1.02 ft. Decreases range from 0.01 to 1.86 ft. (Carbon County) with an average fall of 0.33 ft.

The Adams, Berks and Clinton County wells readings are unchanged. The Warren County reading has been missing since January 31.

Between 0.1 and 0.3 inches of precipitation is forecast for all but the southeastern counties over the next five days, with somewhat greater amounts expected to the northwest. For the period February 9 to 14, between 0.5 and 1.5 inches of precipitation is likely across the entire state, with the lesser amounts in southeastern counties. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be normal to somewhat below normal.