

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

March 26, 2002

County precipitation totals for the first 26 days of March range from 1.6 inches (Tioga County) to 4.2 inches (Delaware County). Average departures from normal for the first 26 days of March in the Delaware River Basin is 0.3 inches for the Middle and Lower Delaware River Basins and -0.1 in the Upper Delaware Basin. In the Susquehanna River Basin the departures are 0.5 inches for the Lower Susquehanna River Basin and -0.2 for the remainder of the Susquehanna Basin, and in the Ohio River Basin the departures are 0.6 inches for the Lower Ohio River Basin and -0.3 for the remainder of the Ohio Basin.

As of this morning, the daily streamflow readings were below normal across the entire state. Daily streamflow readings are as low as 20% of normal streamflow. Instantaneous streamflow readings of 161 gages for March 25th at 1:45 a.m. indicate that there were 50 gages with flows less than the 25th percentile, 21 at less than the 10th percentile and 8 at record lows for the day. The 30-day streamflow duration graphs for March 26th reflect seasonal increases, however the values remain well below normal. Most of the gages now show increasing values for the 30-day average. In the Delaware Basin, all 18 stream gages are increasing. Thirty of 31 gages show increases in their 30-day average streamflow values in the Susquehanna River Basin. For the Ohio River Basin, 7 of 24 gages have decreasing 30-day duration streamflow values. It should be noted that 12 of the duration graph gages in the Delaware Basin are in the emergency range and 5 are in the warning range. In the Susquehanna Basin 17 gages are in the emergency range and 12 are in the warning range.

The 30-day duration graphs for groundwater indicate that 2 of 13 monitoring wells in the Delaware River Basin have decreasing levels, 5 of 19 wells in the Susquehanna River Basin have decreasing levels, and 1 of 13 wells in the Ohio River Basin have decreasing levels. Groundwater conditions continue to remain much below normal in the Lower Susquehanna and Delaware River Basins. In the Delaware Basin, 9 wells are in the emergency range and 3 are in the warning range. In the Susquehanna, 9 wells are in the emergency range and 2 are in the warning range.