

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

July 22, 2002

On June 14, Governor Schweiker lifted the drought emergency for six counties and restored 14 other counties to normal status. Dauphin, Perry and Wayne counties were upgraded to drought watch status and Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties were upgraded to drought warning status. These counties are indicated on the drought status map and in the news release at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought>.

Through the first 21 days of July, county precipitation totals range from 0.1 inches (Carbon County) to 2.2 inches (Fayette County). Departures from normal for the first 21 days of July range from -2.8 inches (Berks, Carbon and Monroe Counties) to -0.8 inches (Wyoming County). The average statewide departure from normal for the period was -1.96 inches and the average rainfall for the period was 0.83 inches. For the past 365 days, precipitation departures range from -15.5 inches (Philadelphia County) to +2.9 inches (Bradford County). Nine other counties, Lancaster, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Franklin, Berks, Perry, Bucks and Cumberland, have departures for the last 365 days that exceed or equal -10.0 inches. It should be noted that on July 18, 2002, the Climate Prediction Center released its most recent 3-month outlook and predicts below normal precipitation and normal temperatures for the period August through October 2002.

As of this morning, the daily streamflow readings were below normal across most of the state. Daily streamflow readings across the state range from 16% of normal streamflow to near normal streamflow. Instantaneous streamflow readings of 160 gages for July 22nd at 1:45 a.m. indicate that there was 43 gages with flows less than the 25th percentile, 19 at less than the 10th percentile and 6 at record lows. This constitutes a slight increase in below normal flows from the previous week and continues the trend of decreasing streamflows.

The 30-day streamflow duration graphs for July 22nd reflect the affects that the lack of precipitation in combination with evaporation and transpiration has had on streamflows this past week. Most gages are still in the normal range, however the 30-day values continue to drop at a significant rate. The lowest flows continue to occur in the southeastern and south-central portions of the state. In the Delaware Basin all 18 stream gages are decreasing, with 5 gages in watch and 2 in emergency. In the Susquehanna River Basin, all of the 31 gages also show

decreases in their 30-day average, with 2 duration graphs in emergency, 5 in warning and 4 in watch. Of the 3 Potomac River Basin gages, there is one in watch, warning and emergency. In the Ohio River Basin, all 22 gages are decreasing with 7 gages now in watch.

The 30-day duration graphs for July 22nd indicate that groundwater levels continue to drop as evaporation, transpiration and minimal rainfall affect groundwater recharge. In the Delaware Basin, all 14 groundwater-monitoring gages are decreasing, with 6 in emergency. In the Susquehanna Basin, all 20 gages continue to decrease with one well in emergency and 2 in watch. In the Ohio River Basin, all 13 gages are dropping with one well in watch and another in emergency.