

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

May 30, 2006

The past week brought rain across the entire Commonwealth, totaling about 0.1 to 0.5 inches south and east of the Allegheny Plateau, with the heavier amounts occurring in the central Susquehanna basin area, and totaling about 0.3 to 1.0 inch in the Allegheny Plateau with the higher amounts in the northwestern-most counties. The 120-day precipitation deficits show a fairly even mix of warning and watch levels statewide, with a few emergency levels in the southern third of the state.

Stream flow indicator gages show some improvement in the northwestern area of the state, reflecting the higher rainfall amounts. Elsewhere, stream flow indicator gages are reflecting normal conditions in much of the Ohio basin and upper Susquehanna and Delaware basins, and a mix of watch and warning conditions in the central and lower portions of the Susquehanna and Delaware basins. The 30-day averages have dropped markedly statewide as the high flows resulting from the end-of-April soaking rain dropped out of the averages. Across the state, the daily stream flow hydrographs reacted to Friday's rain, but flows generally receded quickly to pre-rain base-flow conditions. Again this week, some stream flows are marginally above their daily normal levels, while many remain or have receded well below their daily normal levels.

County indicator wells showed marginal change from last week, based upon the 30-day averages, with indicators in the northeast continuing in emergency, warning or watch conditions. Warning and watch conditions continue to extend southwest from the Pocono area into the lower central Susquehanna Valley. The western border counties continue to reflect mixed emergency through normal ground water conditions. Wells showed some reaction to Friday's rain in the northwestern third of the state. Overall, ground water continues its gradual decline as is typical for this time of year.

Forecasts for the early part of this week indicate the possibility of about a quarter inch of precipitation in the upper Delaware and Susquehanna basins today, a half inch or less tomorrow statewide, and a quarter to an inch statewide on both Thursday and Friday. The 7-day forecast indicates a total of about 1 to 3 inches statewide, with a high of about 5 inches in very upper Susquehanna basin. The 7-14-day forecast indicates that an additional half to one inch of rain may occur, again across most of the Commonwealth. Generally, these would be close to normal rainfall amounts, so we may again anticipate that ground water levels and stream flows may continue to trend gradually downward, as would be typical from normal rainfall patterns at this time of year.

The Commonwealth remains in a statewide drought watch status.

