

September 12, 2007

The last 7 days have brought well below average precipitation across most of the State with a strip of the northern counties receiving better than average precipitation. The monthly trend is normal to somewhat above normal for most of the State with several northernmost counties receiving below average rain.

For the 90-day precipitation drought indicator changes, most counties are registering normal with a handful registering watch and Philadelphia County registering warning.

Stream flow indicators remain in normal status except for Adams and Sullivan Counties, which have returned to watch status. Due to the recent lack of rain, streamflow values have peaked and are now decreasing across the state with some instantaneous readings exceeding the 20th percentile value. In some watersheds, the streamflow levels did not respond the rainfall over the past several weeks and there is a trend to decreasing 30-day streamflow values, especially across central and eastern PA.

Groundwater wells in Bedford, Bradford and Fulton have improved over the last week, with their drought indicator status moving from emergency/warning to warning/watch. While groundwater conditions have improved somewhat, groundwater levels in wells along the Ridge and Valley, with the exception of a pocket of counties that are normal, are still in watch or warning.

Forecasts for the next 7-days indicate the possibility of very little rainfall from 0.0 to 0.5 inches for the state increasing northwesterly; which is well below average. The 14-day forecast provides some hope for 0.5 - 1.0 inches across the state. Precipitation of these magnitudes is unlikely to provide measurable relief to stream flow levels or ground water levels.

A drought watch remains in effect for 32 counties.