

October 31, 2007

Over the past 7 days, the entire state saw significant precipitation with the western half seeing about 1.0 inches above normal, southcentral seeing about 2.0 inches above normal, and the southeast seeing about 2.5-3.0+ inches above normal. The monthly trend, the recent rain brings the western part of the state to normal conditions with a handful of counties lagging behind with deficits of 1.0 inch. Counties in the Susquehanna basin being brought to surplus accounts of 1.5 - 2.5 inches. Delaware Basin counties with 3.0 - 5.0 inches of surplus.

The 90-day precipitation drought indication changes, all counties statewide are designated as "normal".

The rainfall from last week caused instantaneous flows to rise to above normal across the eastern portion of the state. Across the remaining parts of the state flows range from near normal to near record lows again at a few gages such as Beech Creek near Monument in Center County. Most gages across the state are now dropping. Rainfall was varied in intensity and therefore the flows rose and dropped accordingly with some flows not even reaching normal daily flows and others reaching 90 percent or higher. The central and northern portion of the Susquehanna River Basin is reflecting the worst conditions for streamflow based on the 30-day county average plots the instantaneous flow gages. There are 13 counties in Drought Watch with Westmoreland being added to for the first time. Eighteen counties that were in Drought Watch last week have returned to Normal status. Only two counties remain in Drought Warning and one in Drought Emergency.

There was little change on groundwater levels from last week. A longer period of time will be needed to reflect any impact from the recent rains.

The 7-day forecast indicates that the Erie region is predicted to receive the most rain at 0.5-1.0 inches. The remainder of the state to receive less with the bulk of the state receiving in the vicinity of 0.25 - 0.5 inches and southcentral and southeastern regions tapering more with expectations of less than 0.25 inches. This is below average for the Erie region and certainly well below average expectations for the rest of the state. The 8-14 day forecast indicates the northwest corner to receive 1.0-1.5 inches. Middle section of the state predicted at 0.5-1.0 inches and moving east past the Susquehanna; tapering off to 0.25-0.5 inches.

The Commonwealth remains in a drought watch status for 53 counties and a drought warning status for Clinton County.