

Weekly Drought Report October 12, 2010

Precipitation

Overnight precipitation from late Monday the 11th into the 12th ranged from less than 0.10 inches up to areas having up to 2 inches primarily eastward from Jefferson County. A pattern of less precipitation in the west than in the east persists with departures for the 90-day period illustrated by values up to 5.7 above normal in York County and below normal (up to 3.6 inches) in Armstrong County.

The 90-day precipitation indicators are normal or above for all counties except for Washington County that continued in watch status from October 7th and for Warren, Clarion, Armstrong, Allegheny and Beaver Counties that moved from normal to watch status in the past week.

Surface Water

Instantaneous stream flow conditions remain above normal across the Central and Eastern portions of the state with the Western portion still at or below normal. Where rainfall occurred from last night, a slight increase in streamflow levels has been observed. Overall, conditions remain steady for instantaneous streamflow with no significant changes since October 4, 2010. All counties are now at Normal status for 30-day average streamflow.

Groundwater

Over the past week, groundwater indicators in several counties recorded improvements, moving from watch status to normal- Bucks, Montgomery, Luzerne, Carbon, Schuylkill, and Columbia. Those remaining in watch or warning status for groundwater include Fayette, Somerset, Erie, Berks, Monroe, Pike, and Lackawanna. Three counties have emergency indicators for groundwater- Lawrence and Mercer (both use Mercer's well) and Susquehanna County.

Palmer Drought Severity Index

At this time, the drought indicators have turned to "normal or above" status.

Precipitation forecast

Little precipitation is forecast for the next 24 hours with a higher probability of showers in the western part of the Commonwealth on Wednesday increasing in probability statewide into Thursday evening. Longer term forecasts call for up to 2 inches of precipitation extending over the upper $\frac{3}{4}$ of the state over the next two weeks.

Although conditions have improved in eastern and central portions of the state with the reduction of precipitation deficits and higher stream flows, it is unknown at this point on whether improved conditions will be sustained. The 9/16/10 Drought Watch and Warning declarations remain in effect.