Watershed MANAGEMENT 

Drought Information Center

January 11, 1999

Weekend precipitation brought a margin of additional relief to the drought conditions statewide. Lightest hit was the extreme northwest corner of the state where only about .25-.50 inches of precipitation occurred. Throughout most of the Allegheny Plateau, precipitation totaled about .5-1.0 inches. The Ridge and Valley area received about 1.5 inches. Southeast of the Ridge and Valley, precipitation ranged from about 1.0 inch along Blue Mountain to about 0.5 inch in the extreme southeast.

Throughout the Delaware River Basin, stream flows have risen in response to the precipitation and are generally somewhat above normal, but nearly all streams in the basin are already showing rapid declines, and will likely be below normal within a few days.

In the West Branch Susquehanna River basin, flows are marginally higher, but generally below normal. Upper Susquehanna River basin flows have generally decreased along the northern tier and risen in the Scranton to Sunbury area. Juniata Basin flows are increased but generally well below normal. Lower Susquehanna Basin tributaries are up and slightly below to above normal. The lower Susquehanna main stem is up, but well below normal. As in the Delaware Basin, Susquehanna Basin stream flows are already showing sharp declines.

In the Ohio Basin, Allegheny watershed streams are generally down on the western side of the river and up on the eastern side, reflecting precipitation patterns. The Ohio at Sewickley has more than doubled from Friday to 26,300 cubic feet per second, but remains well below normal. Monongahela Basin flows are up dramatically, but remain below normal except on the main stem.

Ground water levels are showing some minor improvements from precipitation in the southern counties, but little or no reaction in the northern counties, where they continue to decline.

Forecasts for the next five days indicate about 0.5-1.0 inch of precipitation statewide and the 5-10 day forecast indicates another 0.5-1.0 inch, as well.