Watershed MANAGEMENT 

# Drought Information Center

**February 12, 1999**

Shower activity produced scattered precipitation in western Pennsylvania, totaling less than 0.1 inch, during the past 24 hours.

In the Delaware River basin, stream flows continue the gradual decline, except in the upper basin above and including the Lackawaxen watershed, where flows have increased slightly, with the Lackawaxen River at Hawley up from 386 cubic feet per second (cfs) yesterday to 442 cfs today. The Delaware River at Trenton declined from 12,600 to 11,400 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 2650 to 2550, the Schuylkill at Philadelphia is down from 2910 to 2420, and Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 235 to 216 cfs. The basin remains generally above normal, with scattered small headwater tributaries falling below, and the entire Christina River watershed remains below normal this morning.

In the Susquehanna River basin, upper basin flows are increased slightly as in the Delaware. The Tioga River at Tioga is up from 501 to 532 and the Lackawanna River at Old Forge is up from 391 to 403 cfs. The main stem at Wilkes-Barre has decreased marginally from 16,100 to 16,000 cfs. In the West Branch watershed, flows are generally declining, with the Lewisburg gage reading 12,100 cfs, down from 13,200 cfs yesterday. Flows in the Juniata watershed are declining as well, with the Newport gage down from 3420 to 3340 cfs. Flows in the lower basin tributaries are likewise declining as evidenced by Swatara Creek at Hershey, down from 783 to 712 cfs. Throughout the basin flows remain generally above normal, with scattered small headwater tributary exceptions.

In the Ohio River basin, stream flows in the Allegheny main stem slightly increased above Warren and have continued to decline downstream, with the Natrona gage reading 29,200 cfs this morning, compared to 35,100 yesterday. Upper Allegheny watershed tributaries are generally increased as well, as reflected by Oil Creed, up from 587 to 684 cfs. Lower Allegheny watershed tributaries and the Monongahela and Beaver Rivers and their tributaries have all generally declined. The Monongahela River at Braddock is down from 26,500 to 20,100 and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is down from 7720 to 6460 cfs. The Ohio River at Sewickley has decreased noticeably from 66,100 to 47,500 cfs. Throughout the basin, stream flows remain well above normal.

Noticeably, all three basins demonstrated increased runoff in the northern watersheds, probably reflecting both precipitation from the previous day and snow/ice melt.

Ground water at the satellite monitoring stations continued to decline yesterday, except the Berks and Wayne County wells, which showed marginal increases.

The three-day forecast indicates precipitation totals of 0.01-0.25 inches, in the form of showers or flurries, with some rain this evening in the east/northeast. The five-day forecast indicates a total of 0.25-0.5 inch in the southern third of the state with 0.5-1.0 inch in the northern two-thirds. The ten-day forecast adds 1.5-2.0 inches, except in the extreme southeast and southwest corners where only 1.0-1.5 inches are added. Temperatures are to remain above normal in the west and normal in the east.

As we enter the holiday weekend and mid-month, the drought status of our counties remains unchanged from January 15, when Clinton and Erie Counties were added to the Governor's previous declaration of emergency in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Jefferson, Lycoming, Somerset, and Snyder Counties. All other counties remain in drought warning, except Beaver, Washington and Westmoreland, which remain in drought watch.