Watershed MANAGEMENT 

Drought Information Center

June 28, 1999

Sunday brought rain throughout the northwestern half of the state. The heaviest concentrations fell along a line from Allegheny to Bradford Counties, with isolated readings of greater than an inch in several areas along the line and nearly 3 inches in Clearfield County. Generally, other areas northwest of the line received from 0 to 0.75 inch.

In the Delaware River basin, stream flows on the main stem Delaware River continued to decline over the weekend, falling at Trenton from 3280 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 3010. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley decreased from 63 to 59 cfs, while the Lehigh River at Bethlehem registered a gain from 675 to 866 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia continued downward from 534 to 487 cfs. In the Christina River watershed, Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford declined from 152 to 133 cfs.

In the Susquehanna River basin, main stem flows on the Susquehanna River also continued a decline, as Harrisburg flows decreased from 4740 to 4330 cfs, again below the record low of 4660 for the day. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge declined from 81 to79 cfs, and the West Branch at Lewisburg fell from 1200 to 1090 cfs, again well below its record low of 1410. Tributary streams in the upper West Branch are recording gains this morning, from yesterday's rainfall throughout much of the watershed; most of these streams appear to be very near peaking or have already peaked. The Juniata River at Newport also declined from 869 to 829 cfs, while its upper headwaters showed temporary improvement from the rain and have already peaked. In the lower basin, the Conestoga River at Conestoga declined from 163 to 150, again below its record low of 163 cfs for today.

In the Ohio River basin, the Allegheny River main stem rose from yesterday's rain, at all gages, with flows at Natrona up from 2250 to 3460 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift rose marginally from 259 to 271 cfs, still well below its record low of 490, and the Monongahela River at Braddock increased from 1790 to 2150 cfs. The Beaver River at Beaver Falls also rose from 917 to 1300 cfs as a result of the rain. The Ohio River at Sewickley rose from 5280 to 6670 cfs. Flows at headwater gages appear to have peaked and are already beginning a rapid descent.

Ground water registered very slight increases at monitoring wells in Franklin, Lycoming, Philadelphia, Potter and Sullivan Counties, in some cases possibly as a result of the Sunday rain. All other daily monitoring wells continued downward.

The outlook for the next three days indicates shower and thunderstorm activity statewide for the early part of the period, with possible locally heavy rains, and clearer weather with continuing possibility of shower activity later in the period. The five-day forecast indicates a total of about 1.5-2.0 inches

possible across the state. The 6-10 day forecast adds another 1.0-1.5 inches statewide.

The type of rainfall we experienced this weekend, and which is forecast to continue through the early part of this week, will improve stream flows temporarily and will improve reservoir storage locally, where the rain occurs in the watersheds above a reservoir. Our all-important ground water reservoir is not likely to benefit much from this activity, though.