Watershed MANAGEMENT 

Drought Information Center

June 30, 1999

During the past two days, precipitation in the form of showers and thunderstorms was prevalent throughout most of the state west of a line from about Adams to Pike Counties, with more scattered and less intensive activity east of that line early in the period. Generally, rain totaled in the 0.1-0.5 inch range. The most concentrated activity occurred in a 50-75 mile wide band extending from about Somerset County to Pike County, where localized storms produced several pockets of rain in the 1-2 inch range and produced over 3 inches of rain in portions of Clearfield County.

In the Delaware River basin, flows in the main stem have shown some reaction to the precipitation as gages in the upper reaches are up slightly, while Trenton flows, which haven't yet seen the runoff from the storm activity, are down from 3010 cubic feet per second (cfs) Monday to 2890 cfs this morning. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is up from 59 to 144 cfs. The Lehigh River watershed is experiencing increased flows in the headwater streams, while flows at Bethlehem are down from 844 to 718 cfs this morning. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia decreased from 487 to 362 cfs, while its upper watershed is also experiencing increased flows from the storms. In the Christina River watershed, Brandywine Creek gained slightly from 133 to 138 cfs.

In the Susquehanna River basin, the main stem shows marginal gains this morning throughout its reach, except at Harrisburg, which is down from 4330 to 4250 cfs and hovering at its record low for the day. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge increased from 79 to 201 cfs. In the West Branch watershed, where the most concentrated storm activity occurred both days, flows increased markedly. At Lewisburg, the West Branch Susquehanna River is on the rise at 2250 cfs, more than double its 1090 flow of Monday. Many West Branch tributary streams have already peaked and are beginning to decline. In the Juniata River, tributary flows are peaking as well, as flows at Newport have increased from 829 to 911 cfs but are near or at peaking. In the lower basin, flows in most tributary streams have increased somewhat; the Conestoga River at Conestoga is up from 150 to 160, but already declined after the peak and is hovering near its record low.

In the Ohio River basin, the Allegheny River has shown some reaction from the storms, up at most gages including Natrona where flows are at 3580 cfs, compared to 3460 on Monday. The Kiskiminetas River rose noticeably at Vandergrift, up from 271 to 530 cfs, but has already peaked. The Monongahela River felt less of the storm but is up at Braddock, from 2150 to 2430 cfs, and appears to have peaked as well. The Beaver River, still farther removed from the concentrated storm activity, is down from 1300 to 1060 cfs. The Ohio River at Sewickley decreased from 6670 to 6280 cfs.

Ground water has shown some positive reaction in the general area of the band of most concentrated

storms. Levels are up slightly at monitoring wells in Bradford, Franklin, Lycoming, Potter, Sullivan and Susquehanna Counties. The reactionary Pike County well rose nearly seven feet from 85.35 to 78.77 feet below land surface. Elsewhere, ground water levels continued their seasonal decline.

Continued shower and thunderstorm activity is forecast during the next few days, with the 5-day outlook showing a total of about 0.5-1.0 inch of precipitation statewide. The 6-10 day outlook adds essentially 0 to that total. Temperatures are to remain above normal, with hot, muggy weather in the early part of the period.