

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

September 20, 1999

For the period September 15 to 20, the precipitation totals, which include those from hurricane Floyd, can be summarized as follows. The bulk of the rain occurred in the eastern half of Pennsylvania. Amounts tapered from seven or eight inches in the southeast, and four or five-inch amounts in the northeast, to about two-inch amounts in the center of the state. The western half of the Commonwealth had amounts varying roughly from the two-inch amount to the east, to close to nothing along the Ohio line.

In the Delaware River Basin, with the exception of some smaller tributaries that have receded since hurricane Floyd, streams show overall flow enhancements since last Thursday, particularly in the lower reaches of the larger watercourses. The mainstem Delaware River at Riegelsville is up from 3,900 to 15,800 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is up from 974 to 2,020 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is up from 1,830 to 5,400 cfs., and the Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is up from 112 to 599 cfs.

All but a handful of gauge readings in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

The Susquehanna River Basin shows stream flow enhancements at almost all of its gauges since September 16. The only notable exception is a receding flow on the Codorus Creek. The mainstem Susquehanna River at Towanda is up from 654 to 8,320 cfs., up at Wilkes-Barre from 1,470 to 15,500 cfs., and up at Harrisburg from 5,360 to 25,600 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up at Lock Haven from 469 to 953 cfs., up at Williamsport from 1,020 to 2,580 cfs, and up at Lewisburg from 1,640 to 4,830 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is up from 1,400 to 2,570 cfs., and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is up from 414 to 853 cfs. About two-thirds of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are now at above normal flow for September 20.

Streams in the Ohio River Basin show no major changes in the past four days. A slight increasing flow trend is noted in the Monongahela River Basin, while decreases can be seen along the Allegheny River and mainstem Ohio River. The Allegheny River at Natrona is down from 2,400 to 1,790 cfs. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 6,970 to 5,280 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is holding somewhat even from 499 to 488 cfs., and the Monongahela River at Braddock is up from 1,550 to 1,960 cfs. In contrast to the Delaware and Susquehanna River Basins, about 90 % of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

Since September 16, 25 counties with monitoring wells show a water level rise for 21 counties and a drop for four. Water level rises show an average increase of over four feet, but some of the readings

seem unreliable. Decreases range from 0.09 to 0.45 ft. with an average drop of 0.19 ft.

Precipitation over the next five days is expected to total over an inch along the Delaware River, tapering off to about 0.25 inches along the Ohio border. Essentially no rain is forecast for Pennsylvania, for the period September 25 to 30. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be about normal.