

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

October 15, 1999

During the period October 12 to 14, there was an average of about 0.3 inches of rain across the state which varied from zero or trace amounts in the southeast to close to an inch in the northwest. In the past 24 hours there was light rain over two very small areas in the extreme northeast and north-northwest. Rainfall totals for these storms were under a quarter-inch.

Most streams in the Delaware River Basin show a receding trend since last Tuesday. The only notable exception is the mainstem Delaware River from Riegelsville downstream. The mainstem gauge at Trenton is up from 9,580 to 9,920 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down from 302 to 263 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 3,710 to 2,900 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down from 4,450 to 3,140 cfs. and the Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 382 to 279 cfs. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for today's date.

Streams in the Susquehanna River Basin show a mostly receding trend in the past three days except the Chemung River Basin, Towanda Creek Basin, Tunkhannock Creek Basin, West Branch Susquehanna River Basin and upper reaches of the Juniata River Basin; these streams show mainly flow enhancements. The mainstem Susquehanna River is even at 2,960 cfs. at Towanda, down from 5,890 to 5,650 at Wilkes-Barre and down from 18,400 to 15,100 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 788 to 1,130 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 2,370 to 2,700 cfs. at Williamsport and almost even from 4,150 to 4,120 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River at Newport is down from 2,800 to 2,160 cfs. and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is down from 917 to 647 cfs. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for October 15.

In the Ohio River Basin the rule is flow enhancement since October 12, with receding flow trends on the lower mainstem Allegheny River, Ohio River and in the Monongahela River Basin. The Allegheny River at Natrona is down from 3,920 to 3,580 cfs. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 13,300 to 8,110 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is up from 554 to 848 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is down from 9,370 to 4,270 cfs. and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is up from 740 to 1,100 cfs. About 60% of the stream Gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

Since October 12, 25 counties with monitoring wells show a water level rise for 12 counties and a drop for 13. Water level rises range from 0.01 to 8.20 ft. with an average increase of 1.36 ft. Decreases range from 0.03 to 0.80 ft. with an average drop of 0.23 ft.

Pike and Potter Counties have water level rises of 4.98 and 8.20 feet respectively. If these readings are called into question and excluded from the analysis, the maximum rise is 1.56 ft. with an average increase of 0.32 ft.

The forecast through October 19 includes 0.5 to 1.0 inches of rain across the state with somewhat heavier amounts possible in the southeast. An additional 0.5 to 1.0 inches of rain can be expected across the state for the period October 19 to 24, with slightly heavier amounts possible in the extreme north. Normal to below normal temperatures can be expected over the next ten days.