

# *Watershed* MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**December 2, 1999**

From November 29 to December 1 there was light precipitation over mainly northern and western counties, averaging possibly 0.15 inches for the affected areas, but leaving about half of Pennsylvania dry. There were small pockets of precipitation during the past 24 hours. These pockets are located in the extreme northwest, extreme northeast, west central, and northeastern areas. The one small area near Philadelphia averaged about a half-inch precipitation total, with the other areas having lesser amounts; these combined areas comprise about 5% of the area of the state.

The Delaware River Basin shows flow recessions on all major streams except Frankford Creek and Crum Creek since November 29. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 22,900 to 13,400 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 954 to 355 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 5,570 to 3,090 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 4,230 to 2,770 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 427 to 301 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 55% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for December 2.

The flow recession trend is repeated for the Susquehanna River Basin since Monday. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 17,600 to 10,200 cfs. at Towanda, down from 24,100 to 15,000 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 58,600 to 38,700 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 14,800 to 5,640 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 24,100 to 9,570 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 29,700 to 11,500 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 6,610 to 3,170 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 598 to 371 cfs. at Conestoga. About 55% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

Over the past three days, the Ohio River Basin is showing flow recessions for all major streams except for those in the Kiskiminetas and Beaver River Basins; these streams show mixed gauge changes. The Allegheny River is down from 22,200 to 19,900 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 36,200 to 28,900 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 3,160 to 3,980 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 12,200 to 7,350 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is holding fairly even from 2,120 to 2,170 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since November 29, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 16 counties and drops for ten. Chester County remains unchanged. Increases range from 0.02 to 5.11 ft. (Pike County) with an average rise of 0.74 ft. Carbon County shows a rise of 3.59 ft. Decreases range from 0.03 to 32.57 ft. (Berks County) with an average drop of 4.19 ft. If the Berks County reading is deemed unreliable and dropped from the analysis, the maximum decrease is 5.34 ft. (Potter County) with an

average drop of 1.04 ft.

Over the next five days, precipitation totaling less than an inch is expected for extreme northwestern counties, tapering to zero amounts along the Maryland and New Jersey borders. For the period December 7 to 12, somewhat over a half-inch of precipitation is forecast for the entire state with heavier amounts likely in extreme western counties. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be below normal.