

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**December 17, 1999**

Yesterday Governor Ridge downgraded the drought emergency status of Somerset County to drought warning.

From December 13 to 16 there was precipitation for all of Pennsylvania with total amounts averaging somewhat over an inch. Over the past 24-hour period there was very light and very scattered precipitation predominantly over the western half of the state, with most totals under a tenth of an inch.

In the Delaware River Basin, the rule is mainly flow enhancements since December 14. Flow recessions are seen in the Neshaminy Creek, Frankford Creek, Crum Creek and Ridley Creek Basins and mixed gauge changes are seen in the Chester Creek Basin. The mainstem Delaware River is up from 7,530 to 13,600 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is up from 244 to 738 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is up from 1,780 to 3,660 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is up from 2,550 to 5,030 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 689 to 522 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for December 17.

Flow enhancements are the only trends seen throughout the Susquehanna River Basin since Tuesday. The mainstem Susquehanna River is up from 6,740 to 15,700 cfs. at Towanda, up from 9,070 to 22,600 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and up from 17,600 to 48,400 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 2,700 to 10,900 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 4,110 to 16,900 cfs. at Williamsport, and up from 4,890 to 19,700 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is up from 2,070 to 6,370 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is up from 485 to 797 cfs. at Conestoga. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin likewise shows a flow enhancement trend on all major streams in the past three days. The Allegheny River is up from 17,900 to 32,200 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is up from 36,800 to 60,500 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 1,480 to 4,880 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 19,200 to 29,100 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 2,330 to 5,570 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at above normal flow for today's date.

Since December 14, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 25 counties and a drop for one (Union). The Allegheny County reading is unchanged. Increases range from 0.09 to 8.85 ft. (Potter County) with an average rise of 1.52 ft. Union County had a drop of 0.21 ft. The Cameron County well reading was taken yesterday, December 16.

Moderate precipitation is forecast for Pennsylvania over the next five days. Totals should range from a half-inch to an inch, in the western half of the Commonwealth, to somewhat over an inch in the east. For the period December 22 to 27, precipitation totaling between a quarter and half an inch is expected over the entire state with the heavier concentrations likely in the extreme west. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be close to normal for most of Pennsylvania. However, somewhat lower temperatures can be expected in the southwest toward the end of the period.