

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

January 4, 2000

From January 1 to 3 there was an average of 0.1 inches total precipitation for the most northwestern third of the state. With the exception of an occasional 0.1 inch total reading, the rest of Pennsylvania did not receive any rain for this period. Over the past 24-hour period there was perhaps an average of about 1.25 inches of precipitation over the westernmost 10% of the state, tapering to trace amounts along an imaginary line drawn through Wilkes-Barre and Somerset.

In the Delaware River Basin, the rule is flow recessions since December 17. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 13,600 to 6,670 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 738 to 263 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 3,660 to 1,680 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 5,030 to 1,650 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 522 to 265 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 80% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for January 4.

Flow recessions are the only trends seen throughout the Susquehanna River Basin since December 17. The only exceptions are rises at Westfield and Elkland along the Cowanesque River. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 15,700 to 5,790 cfs. at Towanda, down from 22,600 to 7,350 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 48,400 to 17,000 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 10,900 to 2,740 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 16,900 to 4,600 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 19,700 to 5,500 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 6,370 to 2,030 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 797 to 380 cfs. at Conestoga. About 70% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin shows mixed flow trends since December 17. The mainstem Allegheny River and French Creek Basin show mixed enhancements and recessions depending on the gauge location. The mainstem Ohio River, Redbank Creek Basin, Mahoning Creek Basin, Crooked Creek Basin, Kiskiminetas River Basin, and Monongahela River Basin are in the flow recession category. The enhancement category includes Kinzua Creek Basin, Conewango Creek Basin, Brokenstraw Creek Basin, Oil Creek Basin, Buffalo Creek Basin, Pine Creek Basin, Chartiers Creek Basin, Beaver Creek Basin and Raccoon Creek Basin. Oswayo Creek Basin is holding fairly even. The Allegheny River is down from 32,200 to 14,000 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 60,500 to 23,600 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 4,880 to 1,180 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 29,100 to 4,350 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 5,570 to 12,400 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 55% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at above normal flow for today's date.

Since December 17, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for eight counties and drops for 19. Increases range from 0.01 to 1.71 ft. (Bucks County) with an average rise of 0.59 ft. Decreases range from 0.07 to 8.54 ft. (Potter County) with an average fall of 1.92 ft. The Philadelphia County well reading was taken Saturday, January 1.

Light to moderate precipitation is forecast for Pennsylvania over the next five days. Totals should range from a half-inch to an inch over most of the state. For the period January 9 to 14, precipitation totaling between a half-inch and an inch is expected in the northwest tapering to less than a quarter-inch in the southeast. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be above normal.