

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**May 8, 2000**

On Friday May 5, Governor Ridge lifted the drought watch for all 67 counties.

From May 1 to 7 there was light precipitation in Pennsylvania. The southeast quadrant of the state had one-tenth to two-tenths inches total rainfall for the period. Precipitation for the rest of the Commonwealth varied from between one and two-tenths inches total rainfall along the southeast quadrant, to just under an inch along Lake Erie, and to just over an inch total rainfall in Greene County. Although only preliminary data is available for the past 24 hours, it appears that a small band of precipitation occurred in the vicinity of Wyoming and Luzerne Counties, with a rainfall total of from 0.25 to 0.5 inches.

Since last Monday, the Delaware River Basin shows all flow recessions. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 14,400 to 8,420 cfs. at Riegelsville. The Lackawaxen River is down from 472 to 266 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 2,360 to 1,840 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 2,330 to 1,690 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 456 to 361 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for May 8.

Since May 1 the Susquehanna River Basin also shows all flow recessions. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 13,600 to 7,910 cfs. at Towanda, down from 19,400 to 11,500 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 46,400 to 25,800 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 7,170 to 4,100 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 11,400 to 6,410 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 13,300 to 7,780 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 5,490 to 3,220 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 540 to 449 cfs. at Conestoga. Essentially all of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

Compared with last week, the Ohio River Basin, like the other two major river basins, shows flow recessions with two exceptions. The Monongahela River Basin has mixed gauge changes, and the Beaver River Basin is holding about even. The Allegheny River is down from 16,200 to 10,900 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 26,500 to 21,300 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 3,609 to 1,860 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 6,750 to 9,310 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is unchanged at 2,280 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River

Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since May 1, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for two counties and drops for 25. The increasing readings are 0.14 and 0.59 ft. (Philadelphia and Schuylkill counties respectively) with an average rise of 0.36 ft. Decreases range from 0.03 to 14.82 ft. (Pike County) with an average drop of 1.40 ft.

For the next five days, between one-quarter to over an inch of precipitation is forecast for about all of Pennsylvania. Rainfall amounts should generally increase outward from the center of the state, in both east and west directions, resulting in heavier rain along both the Pennsylvania-Ohio and the Pennsylvania-New Jersey borders. For the period May 13 to 18, between one-half to over 1.5 inches of precipitation is expected for the entire state, with roughly the same intensity distribution pattern as is expected for the May 8 to 13 period. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be normal to above normal, with the higher temperature expected mainly toward the beginning of the period.