

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

July 10, 2000

For the month of June 2000, 63 Pennsylvania counties had normal or above normal precipitation. Departures from normal precipitation range from -0.70 inches (Bucks County) to +2.60 inches (Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties). The average departure from normal precipitation for all counties for the month of June is +1.11 inches. For the cumulative departure from normal precipitation for the first six months of 2000, 59 Pennsylvania counties had normal or above normal rainfall. Cumulative precipitation departures range from -1.40 inches (Cambria County) to +9.20 inches (Susquehanna County). The average cumulative departure from normal precipitation, for all counties for the first six months of this year, is +2.65 inches. For the first nine days of July, all Pennsylvania counties had less than normal precipitation.

Compared to June 15, the Delaware River Basin shows mainly flow recessions. Enhancements are seen in Pennypack Creek and Frankford Creek basins, while Crum Creek Basin is holding about even. Today's data is unavailable for Tohickon Creek Basin. The mainstem Delaware River is down from 22,600 to 5,570 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 1,260 to 235 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 4,380 to 1,450 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 3,340 to 1,380 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 324 to 195 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 70% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for July 10. The New York City Delaware River Basin storage (July 7) is 6.55% above normal and 99.874 billion gallon above the drought warning level.

Over the past three and a half weeks, the Susquehanna River Basin also shows flow recessions. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down from 32,200 to 3,540 cfs. at Towanda, down from 35,900 to 5,340 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 39,300 to 12,200 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 8,280 to 1,560 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 11,700 to 2,620 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 11,600 to 3,120 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 2,990 to 1,460 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 540 to 362 cfs. at Conestoga. About 55% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date. Twenty of the 21 reservoirs of the Pennsylvania American Water Company (Scranton - Springbrook System) continue at full capacity. Only Griffin Reservoir experienced drawdown over the past week, and now is at 98.6% capacity. Total system storage is currently at 18.578 billion gallons. Hanover Borough's Sheppard Myers and Long Arm Reservoirs are currently both full and spilling (total storage = 1.849 billion gallons).

Compared with mid-June, the Ohio River Basin additionally shows mainly decreasing flows, although French Creek and Clarion River Basins show mixed gauge changes. The Allegheny River is down from

20,000 to 4,150 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 31,600 to 6,570 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 1,940 to 944 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 5,960 to 3,340 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 6,100 to 1,670 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 65% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

For June 2000, 25 of 28 stream gauging stations in Pennsylvania had a monthly mean discharge at or above average for the month of June. None of these stations had a monthly mean discharge at or below the 25th percentile value.

Since June 15, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for two counties and drops for 25. Increases consist of 0.04 ft. (Clinton County) and 1.33 ft. (Lebanon County) with an average rise of 0.69 ft. Decreases range from 0.05 to 16.09 ft. (Pike County) with an average drop of 2.28 ft. USGS June 2000 end-of-month summary figures showing percent of wells where water level is above average, have increased for the Ohio and Susquehanna River basins, but have held even for the Delaware River Basin. The percent of wells where water level is above average is about 85%, 75% and 50% for the Ohio, Susquehanna and Delaware River basins, respectively.

For the next five days, considerable rain is expected mainly toward the end of the period. Two or more inches of rain are predicted for most the state, with lighter amounts expected in northwestern counties. For the period July 15 to 20, up to an inch of rain can be expected for northeast Pennsylvania, tapering to zero amounts along the Ohio border. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be normal to somewhat below normal toward the end of the period.