

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

October 22, 2002

Significant rainfall occurred in the Susquehanna and Delaware River Basins in the last 2 weeks. Through the first 22 days of October, county precipitation totals range from 1.0 inches (Elk, Clarion and Jefferson County) to 6.9 inches (Monroe County). Departures from normal for the first 22 days of October range from -1.3 inches (Clarion County) to +4.3 inches (Lackawanna County). The average statewide departure from normal for the period was +1.17 inches and the average rainfall for the period was 3.36 inches. There were 23 counties with below normal rainfall for the month. For the past 365 days, ending October 22nd, precipitation departures range from -10.5 inches (Philadelphia County) to +5.5 inches (Lackawanna County). Chester County also had a negative departure greater than 10 inches at -10.3 inches. It should be noted that on October 17th, 2002, the Climate Prediction Center released its most recent 3-month outlook and predicts normal precipitation across most of the state except for the southwest corner where below normal precipitation is projected and above normal temperatures for the period November 2002 through January 2003.

As of 2:09 p.m., October 21st, streamflows were below normal in the southeastern portion of the state in the Delaware River Basin, in the Yellow Breeches Creek Basin in the Lower Susquehanna River Basin and the far western and northern portions of the Ohio River Basin. Daily streamflow readings range from 40% of normal to above normal. Instantaneous streamflow readings of 158 gages for October 22nd at 1:45 a.m. indicate that there was 13 gages with flows less than the 25th percentile and 2 at less than the 10th percentile. This represents a significant improvement for streamflows since late spring of this year. Streamflows were slowly dropping across the state and have begun to drop below normal conditions on various streams across the state. Streamflows were the lowest in the Lower Delaware River Basin.

The 30-day streamflow duration graphs for October 22nd indicate that rainfall from Hurricane Isadore and subsequent rainfall event have had a positive affect on the 30-day values. The 30-day values are increasing however they still remain below normal on several stream gages in the Ohio River Basin where 1 gage is in watch and 2 are in warning. In the Delaware Basin all 18 stream gages are increasing with all gages in the normal range. In the Susquehanna River Basin all 30 gages have increasing 30-day averages with all gages in normal. The 3

Potomac River Basin gages are now in normal status and are all increasing. In the Ohio River Basin, 2 of 22 gages are decreasing.

The 30-day groundwater duration graphs for October 22nd indicate that groundwater levels have responded positively to the recent rainfall. In the Delaware Basin, 2 of 12 groundwater-monitoring gages are decreasing, with 4 in emergency, 1 in warning and 3 in watch. In the Susquehanna Basin, 2 of 20 gages are decreasing with 2 wells in emergency and 1 in watch. In the Ohio River Basin, 7 of 11 gages are dropping with 1 well in watch and 2 in emergency.

The Climate Prediction Centers most recent projection for November indicates there will be normal temperatures and precipitation over most of Pennsylvania