

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

May 3, 1999

The week of April 26 to May 3 was a very dry one with almost no measurable precipitation in Pennsylvania; one exception is this morning, May 3. Rain was reported at two stations in Clearfield County (0.12 and 0.04 inches), and at one station in Westmoreland County (0.08 inches).

Flows in nearly all streams in the Delaware Basin are considerably less than on April 26. The Delaware River at Montague is down from 4,460 to 2,630 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down from 513 to 238 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 2,110 to 1,490 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down from 2,130 to 1,550 cfs., and the Brandywine Creek at Chadd's Ford is down from 316 to 225 cfs. The only stream in the basin, which did not show a reduced flow, is Tulpehocken Creek, due to releases at Blue Marsh Dam. Flows for many stations are at about 40 to 60 percent of the long-term median flow for May 3.

The Susquehanna Basin also has flow reductions since April 26. The Susquehanna River at Towanda is down from 15,300 to 6,130 cfs. The Susquehanna River at Wilkes-Barre is down from 24,200 to 10,000 cfs. The Susquehanna River at Harrisburg is down from 48,400 to 26,000 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna River at Renovo is down from 8,940 to 3,620 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna River at Williamsport is down from 14,100 to 7,330 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is down from 8,780 to 3,500 cfs., and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is down from 490 to 371 cfs. Flows at many stations are at about 50 to 75 percent of the long-term median flow for May 3.

In the Ohio Basin, flows in streams have also decreased even more dramatically in the past week. The Allegheny River at Natrona is down from 40,300 to 14,500 cfs. The Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 69,500 to 23,300 cfs. The Kishkimitas River at Vandergrift is down from 12,100 to 2,640 cfs., and the Monongahela River at Braddock is down from 25,500 to 5,490 cfs. Flows at many stations in the Ohio Basin are at about 50 to 80 percent of the long-term median flow for May 3.

Groundwater levels decreased from April 26 in all but Philadelphia County. Changes were generally less than a foot. Carbon, Pike and Potter Counties had groundwater level decreases of over a foot.

Some precipitation is in the forecast. Through Wednesday May 5, only 0.01 or 0.02 inch of rain is expected, except up to possibly 0.20 inches over the extreme Southwest corner of the state. About 1.50 inch of rain can be expected over the entire state between May 5 and May 8. The period of May 8 through May 13 is expected to bring an additional inch of rain over the Southwest third of the state. The rest of the state can expect 0.25 to 0.50 inches of rain during that period. Temperatures are expected to range from the 40's to the 70's.

