

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

July 15, 2002

On June 14, Governor Schweiker lifted the drought emergency for six counties and restored 14 other counties to normal status. Dauphin, Perry and Wayne counties were upgraded to drought watch status and Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties were upgraded to drought warning status. These counties are indicated on the drought status map and in the news release at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought>.

Through the first 13 days of July, county precipitation totals range from 0.0 inches (Carbon, Monroe, Lehigh and Northampton Counties) to 1.0 inch (Fayette County). Departures from normal for the first 13 days of July range from -1.8 inches (Carbon and Monroe County) to -0.8 inches (Mercer County). For the past 365 days, precipitation departures range from -16.7 inches (Philadelphia County) to +2.4 inches (Bradford County). Thirteen other counties, Lancaster, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Franklin, Perry, Bucks, Fulton, Bedford, Bucks, Berks, York, Adams and Cumberland have departures for the last 365 days that exceed or equal -10.0 inches.

As of this morning, the daily streamflow readings were below normal across most of the state. Daily streamflow readings across the state range from 22% of normal streamflow to approximately 150% of normal streamflow. Instantaneous streamflow readings of 162 gages for July 15th at 1:45 a.m. indicate that there was 39 gages with flows less than the 25th percentile, 19 at less than the 10th percentile and 3 at record lows. This constitutes a slight increase in below normal flows from the previous week.

The 30-day streamflow duration graphs for July 15th reflect the affects that the lack of precipitation in combination with evaporation and transpiration has had on streamflows this past week. Most gages are still in the normal range, however the 30-day values continue to drop at a significant rate. The lowest flows are occurring in the southeastern and south-central portions of the state. In the Delaware Basin all 18 stream gages are decreasing, with 3 gages in watch and 2 in warning. In the Susquehanna River Basin, all of the 31 gages also show decreases in their 30-day average, with one duration graph in emergency, one in warning and four in watch. Of the Potomac River Basin gages, one is in emergency and one is in watch. In the Ohio River Basin, all 22 gages are decreasing with one gage in watch.

The 30-day duration graphs for July 15th indicate that groundwater levels continue to drop as evaporation, transpiration and minimal rainfall affect groundwater recharge. In the Delaware Basin, all 14 groundwater-monitoring gages are decreasing, with 6 in emergency. In the Susquehanna Basin, all 20 gages continue to decrease with one well in emergency and 2 in watch. In the Ohio River Basin, all 13 gages are dropping with one well in watch and another in emergency.

