

## **Drought Report**

**September 22, 2015**

**Current Status: There are no drought declarations at this time.**

**This report summarizes the various indicators utilized in drought monitoring. Each parameter (groundwater, surface water, precipitation, and palmer index) has their own individual indicator for each county. When readings hit a pre-determined trigger level, the indicator is coded as “Normal”, “Watch”, “Warning”, or “Emergency” for that county. These indicators are used to evaluate the drought status of a particular county; they are not, themselves drought declarations. Drought declarations are determined by the Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, with support of the Drought Task Force, and given final approval by the Governor.**

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*Precipitation* –Over the past week, minimal precipitation occurred across the state, with the highest amounts (0.7-1.5 inches) in the west and the lowest amounts (0-0.4 inches) in the central and eastern portions of the state. The 90-day precipitation deficit shows most counties with normal departures from average precipitation, with some above and below average. The 30-day precipitation deficit shows the central and eastern portions of the state with below average departures (up to 75% below).

The precipitation indicators based on a 90-day departure are showing one county (Susquehanna) in “Watch” status.

*Surface Water*- Instantaneous streamflow varies across the Commonwealth with most gages at or below normal flow. For this date there are 15 gages with instantaneous flow at less than the 10th percentile.

The 30-day running average streamflow indicators are showing 12 counties in “Watch” status (Chester, Columbia, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Forest, Montour, Philadelphia, Somerset, Susquehanna, Westmoreland, and Wyoming).

*Groundwater* – The 30-day moving average indicators for groundwater levels are showing 13 counties in a drought status. The indicators are as follows: 11 counties in drought “Watch” (Cambria, Chester, Delaware, Fayette, Indiana, Lancaster, McKean, Philadelphia, Potter, Somerset, and Westmoreland), 2 counties in drought “Warning” (Lawrence and Mercer), and zero counties in drought “Emergency”. The groundwater level real-time data indicates a downward trend in the 30-day moving average groundwater levels.

*Palmer Drought Severity Index* – The Palmer soil moisture indicator is displaying 21 counties in “Watch” status (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Somerset, Venango, Warren, Washington, and Westmoreland).

*Public Water Supply Agencies (PWSAs)* –Galeton Borough has been on mandatory water restrictions since September 9, 2015.

*Forecast* – The 7-day forecast indicates approximately 0 to 0.5 inches of precipitation for the state, with the highest rainfall amounts in the south-central and southeastern portions of the state. The 8 to 14-day forecast indicates 0.2 to 2 inches of precipitation for the state, with highest rainfall totals in the northwestern portion of the state.

*Summary* – Recent dry conditions have prompted the return of this weekly drought report. Instantaneous streamflows statewide show most gages at or below normal flow. The 30-day moving average streamflow indicators show 12 counties in “Watch” status. The 90-day precipitation deficit shows normal conditions, but based on the 30-day precipitation departures, future lack of precipitation will begin to show a decline in the 90-day precipitation departures. The 30-day moving average groundwater well levels show 11 counties in “Watch” and 2 counties in “Warning” status. A Drought Task Force meeting is not being scheduled at this time. Conditions will continue to be closely monitored in the event that it becomes necessary to convene a Drought Task Force meeting.