

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

January 26, 1999

Precipitation over the past 24 hours was light and focused generally in the north-central region of the state where between one-tenth and two-tenths of an inch of precipitation fell in areas of Bradford, Lycoming, Columbia, and Union Counties.

The Delaware River at Trenton peaked late last night at approximately 65,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), up from 44,100 cfs yesterday and 15,500 cfs just last Friday. Stream flows in the Delaware tributaries continue the recession that began yesterday. Flows in the larger river systems such as the Lehigh and Schuylkill are dropping back slowly this morning while the smaller tributaries are showing sharper declines. Despite the general decline in flows throughout the Delaware watershed, stream flows all remain well above normal.

In the Ohio River basin, Allegheny River flows at Port Allegheny have dropped from 5300 cfs yesterday to 2940 cfs this morning while at Natrona flows have dropped from 104,000 cfs to 64,400 cfs. The Monongahela River and Beaver River systems are showing similar declines. The Ohio River at Sewickley has dropped from yesterday's peak of nearly 170,000 to 123,000 cfs. These flows, though declining, are still running four to five times above normal.

Susquehanna basin flows are also beginning to show a decline from the extremely high flow conditions of the past few days. The Susquehanna River at Harrisburg appears to have peaked at about midnight this morning at over 230,000 cfs, almost ten times normal flow for this time of year. West Branch Susquehanna River flows at Renovo and Williamsport are showing gradual declines but remain at almost six times normal flow. Similar flow patterns in the North Branch watershed and the Juniata basin were observed this morning.

Groundwater levels are beginning to slowly respond to the combination of precipitation and warmer temperatures, as appreciable rises in some observation wells are being observed.

The weather forecast for eastern Pennsylvania calls for a scattered precipitation Wednesday through Saturday with the greatest chance of measurable precipitation to occur Thursday evening. The long-range outlook calls for below normal precipitation and near normal temperatures. The forecast for western Pennsylvania calls for a chance of showers Wednesday, rain in the north Wednesday night, and rain or snow showers likely through Saturday.

