

# *Watershed* MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**January 27, 1999**

Precipitation across the Commonwealth over the past 24 hours was scattered and light. Up to one tenth of an inch of precipitation was recorded in parts of Cambria, Clarion, Venango, Westmoreland, Carbon, Luzerne, and Lycoming Counties.

The larger streams in the Delaware River system are experiencing significant declines in flow as last weekend's storm surge and snow melt passes through. Flows remain well above normal, however, in the larger streams. The Delaware River at Trenton this morning was flowing at 36,600 cubic feet per second (cfs), down from 65,000 cfs yesterday. Normal stream flow at Trenton for this time of year is 9560 cfs. The smaller tributaries in the Delaware River basin are falling sharply with some in the southern reaches of the watershed already returning to near normal flows.

Stream flows in the Ohio River basin are slowly and steadily declining. The Allegheny River at Port Allegheny dropped from 2940 cfs yesterday to 1790 cfs this morning. The Monongahela basin continues to experience flow near or above normal. Stream flows in the Monongahela and Kiskiminetas Rivers appear to have temporarily stabilized well above normal. The Ohio River flow at Sewickley at this morning was 98,700 cfs, down from 123,000 cfs yesterday but still nearly three times normal flow.

West Branch Susquehanna River flows at Renovo and Williamsport are slowly declining but remain well above normal. North Branch flows at Towanda and Wilkes-Barre are showing patterns similar to the West Branch. In the Juniata and Conestoga River systems, however, flows have receded sharply back to near normal conditions. Main stem Susquehanna River flows at Harrisburg this morning were down 52,000 cfs from yesterday to 178,000 cfs. This is still nearly six times normal flow for January.

Groundwater levels are sustaining the measurable improvement observed due to the recent mild and rainy weather. This is based on only partial data. Ground water levels for all 50 observation wells throughout Pennsylvania will be available at the end of the month.

The extended weather forecast for all of Pennsylvania calls for a chance of some showers in the northeast today, with rain or snow showers possible throughout the Commonwealth every day through Sunday.