

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**February 4, 1999**

Under generally clear skies, the Commonwealth received only a slight amount of precipitation during the past 24 hours. Less than 0.1 inch fell in the western quarter of the state.

In the Delaware River basin, runoff from the Monday-Tuesday precipitation has pretty much found its way to the river itself. Most tributary streams have peaked and are receding. The Delaware River main stem gages are all increased to nearly double yesterday's readings, with Trenton up from 9870 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 21,600 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 6770 to 6220 cfs. The Schuylkill is down from 7830 to 5580 cfs. Throughout the basin, stream flows remain generally above normal, except in the Christina watershed, where about half the gages remain below normal.

Runoff appears to have reached the main stem of the Susquehanna River also, as all the main stem gages are increased from yesterday, while tributary flows in both the upper and lower basin are receding. In the West Branch, runoff appears to be more prolonged as many tributaries are up from yesterday, as is the main stem. The West Branch at Lewisburg is up from 16,000 to 17,100 cfs. Tributary flows in the Juniata watershed are receding as the main stem is carrying the peak of the runoff. Juniata flows at the Newport gage are up from 4530 to 5240 cfs. Flows remain well above normal, with scattered exceptions in smaller headwater streams throughout the basin.

The Ohio River basin is showing similar characteristics, as the runoff peaks traverse to the main stems of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers. The Allegheny at Natrona is up from 48,200 to 49,400 cfs, and the Monongahela at Braddock is up from 12,400 to 14,400 cfs. All flows in the Beaver River watershed have peaked, and the river at Beaver Falls is down from 12,800 to 12,400 cfs. The Ohio River at Sewickley is up from 65,800 cfs to 67,500 cfs. With the exception of the Monongahela watershed again, flows throughout the Ohio basin are well above normal.

Ground water levels are mixed, with about half on the increase and half on the decrease.

The five-day forecast indicates about 0.1-0.25 inches of precipitation in the Delaware and Susquehanna basins and 0.25-1.0 inch in the Ohio basin. The 5-10 day forecast adds about 0.25 inch east of the Ridge and Valley, 0.25-0.5 inch in the Ridge and Valley and Appalachian Plateau, and 0.5-1.0 inch in the northwestern counties from about Lawrence to McKean. Temperatures are to remain generally at or above normal.

