

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

March 2, 1999

Remnants of the weekend weather system produced 0.05-0.15 inch of precipitation in the Delaware River basin and much of the western Ohio River basin, and localized light precipitation of less than 0.05 inch in many other scattered areas of the state yesterday morning.

In the Delaware River basin, stream flows on the main stem Delaware River have increased, with Trenton flows up from 8980 cubic feet per second (cfs) yesterday to 11,500 cfs this morning. In the upper basin, tributary flows are generally increased; the Lackawaxen River at Hawley is up from 464 to 617 cfs. In the Lehigh River watershed, flows are mixed, generally increased in the upper watershed and decreased in the lower watershed, while the river at Bethlehem is up from 2490 to 2550 cfs. In the Schuylkill River watershed, flows are generally decreased, although the river at Philadelphia is up from 2910 to 3740 cfs following last evening's peak. Christina River watershed flows are all decreased, with Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford down from 856 to 409 cfs. Basinwide, about a quarter of the gages are reading below normal.

In the Susquehanna River basin, stream flows on the main stem are increased as far down as Harrisburg, where flows are up from 19,600 to 20,100 cfs on a very slow increase from the weekend precipitation, which was lighter in the Susquehanna basin than elsewhere in the state. Upper basin tributaries are increased somewhat, with the Lackawanna River at Old Forge up from 470 to 495 cfs. In the West Branch watershed, tributary flows are mixed, generally increased in the upper watershed and decreased in the lower watershed below Sinnemahoning. West Branch main stem flows are increased below Curwensville, with the flows at Lewisburg up from 7050 to 7350 cfs. Juniata River tributary flows are decreased while the main stem river is carrying the peaks from weekend precipitation, up from 1920 to 2140 cfs at Newport. Lower basin tributary flows are declining, as indicated by the Conestoga River at Conestoga, down from 1100 to 737 cfs. Basinwide, flows remain considerably below normal at nearly all gages.

In the Ohio River basin, Allegheny River main stem flows are increased below Eldred, with flows at Natrona up from 16,500 to 20,500, still approaching a peak from the weekend precipitation. Allegheny tributary flows are mixed with the Clarion River down from 1600 to 1530 cfs at Cooksburg and the Kiskiminetas River up from 1180 to 2280 cfs at Vandergrift. Monongahela River watershed flows are generally increased noticeably, with the river at Braddock up from 11,400 to 22,600 cfs. Beaver River watershed flows are down, as is the river at Beaver Falls down from 7720 to 6920 cfs. The Ohio River at Sewickley is nearly doubled from 23,400 to 41,100 cfs. Nearly all gages, including the Ohio at Sewickley, are below normal.

With only two exceptions, Berks and Franklin Counties, ground water monitoring wells showed improvement again yesterday.

The three-day forecast indicates 0.5-1.2 inches of precipitation possible, with the heavier concentrations occurring in the northern and western areas of the state. The five-day outlook adds little; while the 5-10 day forecast adds significant precipitation in the 1.5-3.0 inch range, heaviest in the east. Temperatures in the 5-10 day period are to be below normal, in the 30-40 degree range.