

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

May 10, 1999

The week of May 3 to 10 brought some rain to the Commonwealth. Most counties had less than an inch of rain, except central and south central portions of the state, which had between 1.0 and 2.0 inches. For about 80% of the state, 60-day precipitation ranges from 25% below normal to 25% above normal. For the remaining parts of the state, 60-day precipitation ranges from 26% to 75% below normal.

The Delaware Basin as a whole showed slight flow increases from May 3. Slight increasing flow trends were recorded on the main stem Delaware, and in the Lackawaxen, Bushkill, Brodhead, and Neshaminy basins. Mixed flow trends were recorded in the Lehigh, Schuylkill, and Christina Basins. Flows in many streams in the Delaware Basin are less than 70 percent of the long-term median flow for May 10.

The Susquehanna Basin had some mixed trends for the past week; most sub-basins showed an increasing flow trend. These included the Towanda Creek, Tunkhannock Creek, Lackawanna River, Wapwallopen Creek, Juniata River, Sherman's Creek, Conodoguinet Creek, Yellow Breeches Creek, and West Conowego Creek basins.

Decreasing flow trends were recorded on the main stem Susquehanna, and in the Fishing Creek, West Branch Susquehanna River, Swatara Creek, and Conestoga Creek basins. Flows in many streams in the Susquehanna Basin are less than 70 percent of the long-term median flow for May 10.

Most streams in the Ohio Basin recorded a decreasing flow trend since May 3. This includes the main stem Ohio River. Increasing flow trends are noted in the Conewango Creek, Brokenstraw Creek, Oil Creek, Redbank Creek, and the Mahoning Creek basins.

Flows in many streams in the Ohio Basin are less than 70 percent of the long-term median flow for May 10.

Most groundwater levels throughout the state are lower than on May 3. Of the 27 counties reported, 25 have lower levels than the previous week. Test wells for Carbon, Pike and Potter counties dropped 3.53, 3.26, and 2.23 feet respectively. All other counties reporting lower levels had decreases of less than a foot.

No precipitation is expected over the state through Tuesday afternoon, May 11. Through Wednesday

afternoon, May 12, up to 0.20 inches of rain is expected, mainly over the south central 20 percent of the state. From May 10 to May 15, a total of 0.5 to 1.0 inches of rain is forecast over the southwestern 60% of the state, with the remaining area receiving about 0.25 inches. For the period of May 15 to 20, a total of up to 1.5 inches of rain is forecast for all but the extreme northeast corner of the state; the northeast corner of the state is expected to receive about 0.20 inches of rain during that period. Temperatures are expected to range from lows in the 40's to highs in the 70's for the next 10 days.