

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

February 22, 2000

There was considerable precipitation in Pennsylvania during the past week. From February 15 to 21, total water equivalents ranged from about a half-inch along Lake Erie to over two inches near the southern border with West Virginia. The average amount of precipitation for the state as a whole was perhaps one inch for this period. During the past 24 hours there was an average of about a quarter-inch precipitation that was rather uniformly distributed over about 75% of the state. The only major areas with no precipitation since yesterday are in the extreme southwest and extreme south-southeast.

In the Delaware River Basin, flow recessions are seen for all major streams since Tuesday of last week, except no data is available for the mainstem Delaware River this morning. The Lackawaxen River is down from 1,100 to 316 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 2,440 to 1,820 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 4,740 to 3,900 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 839 to 559 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 55% of the available stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for February 22.

Since February 15, the Susquehanna River Basin shows flow recession as a general trend on at least the smaller major watercourses. Flow enhancement is seen as the rule for the mainstem Susquehanna River, Conodoguinet Creek and West Conewago Creek basins. Mixed gauge readings are seen in the West Branch Susquehanna River and Conestoga River basins while the Yellow Breeches Creek Basin is holding about even. The mainstem Susquehanna River is up from 7,910 to 8,390 cfs. at Towanda, down from 23,000 to 17,700 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and up from 46,800 to 70,600 cfs. at Harrisburg. (Harrisburg readings are possibly falsely augmented by ice.) The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 2,990 to 5,640 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 6,460 to 8,320 cfs. at Williamsport, and up from 7,850 to 9,160 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 5,840 to 4,980 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is up from 635 to 900 cfs. at Conestoga. About 60% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin shows flow recessions for all major watercourses over the past seven days with the exception of the lower Clarion River and lower Kiskiminetas River basins. The Allegheny River is up slightly from 23,400 to 23,900 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 109,000 to 69,500 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 4,070 to 9,160 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 62,200 to 46,200 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 9,620 to 3,820 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 60% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at above normal flow for today's date.

Since February 15, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 22 counties and drops

for five. Increases range from 0.08 to 7.42 ft. (Pike County) with an average rise of 1.30 ft. Decreases range from 0.14 to 0.31 ft. (Snyder County) with an average fall of 0.21 ft.

Between one-tenth and one inch of precipitation (water equivalent) is forecast for Pennsylvania over the next five days, with expected amounts increasing from the New Jersey border to the Beaver-Lawrence County area. For the period February 27 to March 3, between one-half and one inches of precipitation is expected for most of Pennsylvania. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be above normal.