

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

April 24, 2000

From April 16 to 23 there was considerable precipitation in Pennsylvania. Precipitation totals were very diverse, ranging from slightly over a half-inch in some counties, to over three inches in others. As a very general rule, heavier total amounts were seen in central and south-central areas, while the lighter intensities occurred along the Ohio border. An average precipitation total for the entire state, for this seven-day period, is possibly between 1.5 and 2.0 inches. Although only preliminary data is available for the past 24 hours, it appears that roughly a half-inch or more of precipitation occurred in the eastern 20% of the state, while at least light rain encompassed perhaps half the Commonwealth.

Since last Monday, the Delaware River Basin is split between flow enhancements and recessions. The gauges with the enhancements include the mainstem Delaware River, the Lackawaxen River, Bush Kill, Brodhead Creek, Lehigh River, Tohickon Creek and Christina River basins. The mainstem Delaware River is up from 15,200 to 31,900 cfs. at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is up from 542 to 1,350 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is up from 2,900 to 3,840 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 4,680 to 4,060 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is up from 664 to 760 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 90% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for April 24.

Since April 17, the Susquehanna River Basin shows flow enhancements with the exception of Wapwallopen Creek, Swatara Creek and Conestoga River basins. The mainstem Susquehanna River is up from 19,600 to 37,300 cfs. at Towanda, up from 28,400 to 50,100 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and up from 51,200 to 127,000 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 6,340 to 28,700 cfs. at Lock Haven, up from 10,400 to 43,100 cfs. at Williamsport, and up from 12,200 to 45,700 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is up from 4,050 to 24,100 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 892 to 723 cfs. at Conestoga. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at above normal flow for this date.

Compared with last week, the Ohio River Basin also shows flow enhancements except for recessions in Buffalo Creek, Pine Creek, Chartiers Creek, and Beaver River basins. Raccoon Creek Basin is holding fairly steady. The Allegheny River is up from 28,900 to 39,900 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is up from 46,900 to 74,700 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 3,350 to 7,340 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is up from 13,900 to 32,400 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 4,870 to 4,380 cfs. at Beaver Falls. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at above normal flow for today's date.

Since April 17, 26 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for 20 counties and drops for

six; the Sullivan County well reading for April 17 is not available. Increases range from 0.06 to 6.98 ft. (Potter County) with an average rise of 1.04 ft. Decreases range from 0.10 to 2.09 ft. (Schuylkill County) with an average drop of 0.88 ft.

For the next five days, between one-tenth to over one-half inches of precipitation is forecast for Pennsylvania, with amounts generally increasing from west to southeast. For the period April 29 to May 4, between one-tenth to over one-quarter inches of precipitation is expected for the eastern two-thirds of the state, with expected total amounts generally increasing from west to east. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be close to normal.