

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**July 9, 2001**

For the month of June 2001, 35 of 67 Pennsylvania counties had below normal precipitation. Departures from normal precipitation range from -2.20 inches (Butler County) to 3.30 inches (Bucks County). The average departure from normal precipitation for the state as a whole, for the month of June, is 0.05 inches. Cumulative rainfall for the period January through May 2001 ranged from 14.30 inches (Beaver County) to 26.0 inches (Bucks County). For the first 9 days of July, 19 of 67 counties have below normal precipitation, with average rainfall for the period being approximately 0.35 inches. Normal for the first 9 days of July would be approximately 1.2 inches. Departures from normal for the last 30 days range from -0.25 inches in the Ohio Basin, 0.50 inches in the Susquehanna Basin, and 1.10 inches in the Delaware Basin.

Significant rainfall has occurred over portions of Pennsylvania during the last two weeks. This rainfall resulted in the recovery of streamflows to near normal and above normal flows. The rainfall also resulted in the recovery of many of the groundwater monitoring wells. However, groundwater levels and streamflows have begun dropping again.

Streamflows in the Delaware River Basin remain above normal, except for the Main Stem or the Delaware River, as a result of the rainfall that has occurred in the last two weeks. In the Susquehanna River Basin, the West Branch Susquehanna River Basin, Juniata River Basin and the remaining southern portion of the Susquehanna Basin have below normal flows at this time. The remaining northern portions of the Susquehanna Basin have above normal flows. The middle and upper Ohio River Basin has flows below normal with the lower Ohio Basin experiencing above normal flows due to recent heavy rainfall in the area.

Compared to June 7, in the Delaware Basin, the main-stem of the Delaware River is down from 11,000 to 4,790 cfs at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is down from 422 to 152 cfs at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 1,910 to 1,490 cfs at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 1,690 to 1,280 cfs at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 307 to 180 cfs at Chadds Ford. The New York City Delaware River Basin storage (July 9) is 1.54 % below normal and 79.601 billion gallons above the drought warning level.

Over the past four weeks in the Susquehanna Basin, the main stem Susquehanna River is down from 4,730 to 3,220 cfs at Towanda, down from 6,160 to 4,860 cfs at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 15,700 to 10,700 cfs at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 3,060 to 1,270 cfs at Lock Haven, from 5,170 to 2,380 cfs at Williamsport, and from 5,990 to 2,880 at Lewisburg. The Juniata Basin is down from 1,890 to 1,250 cfs.

For the Ohio Basin, the Allegheny River is down from 14,400 to 5,600 cfs at Natrona. The main-stem Ohio River is down from 43,600 to 29,300 cfs at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 2,960 to 1,090 cfs at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 23,700 to 19,600 cfs at Braddock and the Beaver River is down from 1,780 to 1,490 cfs at Beaver Falls.

USGS June 2001 end-of-month summary figures showing percent of wells where water level is above average have increased for all three major river basins. The percent of wells where water level was above average was about 30%, 30% and 80% for the Delaware, Susquehanna and Ohio River basins, respectively. Groundwater levels are reflecting the benefits of recent rainfall events. Compared to the June 7 readings, 9 of 29 groundwater monitoring wells show an increase in levels with the remaining decreasing from the June 7 levels. Increases range from 2.00 to 7.39 feet. Decreases range from 0.97 to 2.37 feet

For the period July 11th through July 19th, little or no rainfall is predicted for Pennsylvania. Up to 0.25 inches of rain is forecast for the north central portion of the state with the remainder forecast to receive no measurable rainfall. Monitoring will continue for all of the drought triggers.