

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

November 7, 2001

On November 6, Secretary David E. Hess announced the upgrading of 9 drought watch counties to drought warning. In addition, 10 additional counties were designated in drought watch. There are now 46 counties in drought watch and 9 counties in drought warning. These counties are indicated on the drought status map and in the news release at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought>.

For the month of October 2001, 54 of 67 Pennsylvania counties had below normal precipitation. Departures from normal precipitation range from -2.60 inches (Adams, Berks, and Montgomery County) to 1.40 inches (Warren County). The October average departure from normal precipitation for the state as a whole is -1.19 inches. Cumulative rainfall for the period January through November 6, 2001 ranged from 23.1 inches (Bedford County) to 37.2 inches (Bucks County). For the first 6 days of November all 67 counties have below normal precipitation, with average rainfall for the period being approximately 0.1 inches. Normal for the first 6 days of November is approximately 0.7 inches.

Compared to October 4, in the Delaware Basin, the main-stem of the Delaware River is down from 3,440 to 2,830 cfs at Trenton. The Lackawaxen River is up from 42 to 62 cfs at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 933 to 604 cfs at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 867 to 465 cfs at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 108 to 98 cfs at Chadds Ford. The New York City Delaware River Basin storage (October 31) is 32.96 % below normal. The NYC Delaware River Basin storage levels declined to drought warning levels on November 6.

Over the past four weeks in the Susquehanna Basin, the main stem Susquehanna River is down from 1,630 to 1,380 cfs at Towanda, down from 2,980 to 1,900 cfs at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 8,320 to 5,450 cfs at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is up from 751 to 1,110 cfs at Lock Haven, down from 1,990 to 1,900 cfs at Williamsport, and down from 2,660 to 2,290 cfs at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 695 to 673 cfs at Newport. The Conestoga River is down from 55 to 53 cfs at Lancaster.

For the Ohio Basin, the Allegheny River is up from 2,200 to 5,600 cfs at Natrona. The main-stem Ohio River is up from 7,370 to 10,300 cfs at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is up from 210 to 566 cfs at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 3,010 to 2,590 cfs at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 572 to 740 cfs at Beaver Falls.

Instantaneous streamflow readings for November 7 at 1:45 a.m., indicate that there were 64 (out of 159 reporting) stream gages registering flows below the 25th percentile, 33 less than the 10th percentile and 6 at record lows. These statistics reflect the continued downward trend in streamflows

across the central and eastern portions of the state.

USGS October 2001 end-of-month summary figures showing percent of wells where water level is above average increased in the Delaware and Susquehanna River Basins and remained unchanged in the Ohio River Basin. The percent of wells where water level was above average was about 23%, 33% and 35% for the Delaware, Susquehanna and Ohio River basins, respectively. Groundwater levels have returned to their downward trend after responding positively to the September rainfall. Compared to the October 4 readings, 43 of 60 groundwater monitoring wells show a decrease in levels. Increases range from 0.12 (Warren County) to 7.74 (Clearfield County) feet. Decreases range from 0.07 (Huntingdon County) to 19.97 (Carbon County) feet.

For the period November 7th through November 17th, approximately 0.0 to 0.5 inches of rain is projected to fall across the state. Currently there are no tropical depressions or hurricanes predicted to affect the east coast.