

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**August 26, 2002**

On August 9th, Governor Schweiker extended the drought emergency for 14 counties across Southcentral and Southeast Pennsylvania. The Governor also added 7 counties to drought-watch status. There are now 14 counties in drought emergency, 3 in drought warning and 14 counties in drought watch. 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>.

Through the first 26 days of August, county precipitation totals range from 0.8 inches (Union County) to 3.5 inches (Mercer County). Departures from normal for the first 26 days of August range from 0.4 inches (Bedford County), with Mercer currently being the only county above normal for the month, to -2.6 inches (Lehigh County). The average statewide departure from normal for the period was -1.23 inches and the average statewide rainfall for the period was 1.94 inches. For the past 365 days, ending August 26, precipitation departures range from -15.8 inches (Philadelphia County) to +5.9 inches (Forest County). There are a total of 16 counties that in the last 365 days either exceed or equal -10.0 inches. It should be noted that on August 15th, 2002, the Climate Prediction Center released its most recent 3-month outlook and predicts below normal precipitation and normal temperatures for the period September through November 2002.

As of 1:45 a.m., August 26th, the daily streamflow readings were below normal across the Delaware River Basin and most of the Susquehanna River Basin, where the Chemung River Basin was above normal. In the Ohio River Basin, the Allegheny River Main Stem and the Youghiogheny River, Beaver River and Redbank Creek Basins were above normal. Daily streamflow readings range from 20% to 200% of normal. Instantaneous streamflow readings of 159 gages for August 26th at 1:45 a.m. indicate that there was 25 gages with flows less than the 25th percentile, 16 at less than the 10th percentile and 2 at record lows.

The 30-day streamflow duration graphs for August 26th reflect the affects that the lack of precipitation in combination with evaporation and transpiration continues to have on streamflows. However, the rains that recently occurred in Pennsylvania did help the streamflow gages recover somewhat however they now have either peaked or already begun to fall again. The lowest flows continue to occur in the eastern and south-central portions of the state, however low flows can now be

found moving north and west from the current drought emergency area. In the Delaware Basin 13 of 18 stream gages are decreasing, with 5 gages in watch, 2 in warning and 7 in emergency. In the Susquehanna River Basin 30 of 31 gages are decreasing, with 9 duration graphs in emergency, 6 in warning and 11 in watch. Of the 3 Potomac River Basin gages 1 was emergency and the other 2 were in watch and all were decreasing. In the Ohio River Basin, 10 of 22 gages are decreasing with 4 gages in watch and 1 in warning.

The 30-day groundwater duration graphs for August 26th indicate that groundwater levels continue to drop as evaporation, transpiration and minimal rainfall affect groundwater recharge. In the Delaware Basin, all 14 groundwater-monitoring gages are decreasing, with 6 in emergency, 1 in warning and 2 in watch. In the Susquehanna Basin, all 20 gages continue to decrease with 2 well in emergency, 3 in warning and 7 in watch. In the Ohio River Basin, 12 of 13 gages are dropping with 3 wells in watch and 3 in emergency.