

# *Watershed* MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**January 12, 1999**

Light precipitation, ranging from one-tenth to three-tenths of an inch fell over the last 24 hours in an area of western Pennsylvania roughly encompassing Butler, Allegheny, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties. Except for a few other areas of minor precipitation, the rest of the Commonwealth remained dry.

Delaware River Basin flows are rapidly declining as runoff from last weekend's storm moves through the system. Some streams are still at near normal flow, however Brandywine Creek and the Delaware River have already reverted to flows significantly below normal for this time of the year.

Stream flows in the Ohio River basin are mixed as most the Allegheny watershed tributaries remain well below normal while the Monongahela basin continues to experience flow near or above normal. The Ohio River flow at Sewickley at 4:00 this morning was 26,600 cubic feet per second, up slightly from yesterday but still below normal.

West Branch Susquehanna River tributary flows in the upper reaches of the watershed are currently near normal, but are expected to begin declining shortly. Flows in the Susquehanna River at Wilkes-Barre and Sunbury are well below normal and are showing steep declines as the impact of the weekend storm moves past. Though the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg continues to exhibit a steady increase in flow, its flow is still less than half of normal for this time of year.

Groundwater levels are improving somewhat in the southern tier of the state. Groundwater levels in the remainder of the Commonwealth are holding steady or are declining.

The five-day weather forecast for Pennsylvania calls for a chance of measurable precipitation through Friday accompanied by a warming trend. The longer range forecast through January 21, calls for temperature to average much above normal with predicated precipitation ranging from one-third to one-half inch.