

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

February 1, 1999

The weekend brought minimal to no precipitation across the Commonwealth. Readings indicate that scattered showers or flurries brought as much as 0.1 inch in Susquehanna, York and Delaware Counties.

Following a week of little precipitation, stream flows are receding statewide.

In the Delaware River basin, every gage has declined since Friday, except Neshaminy Creek at Chalfont, which is up from 14 cubic feet per second (cfs) on Friday to 16 cfs this morning. Flows in a number of tributary streams in the lower Lehigh and Schuylkill watershed have declined to below normal. Stream flows throughout the Christina and in the Delaware tributaries below the Schuylkill are all below normal. The Delaware River at Trenton, at 11,900 cfs this morning, is approaching its normal of 9130 cfs.

In the Susquehanna River basin, main stem flows at all gages below Wilkes-Barre are at about half of the Friday levels. Similar patterns are found in the upper basin tributaries as well. West Branch main stem and tributary flows are at one to two-thirds of Friday's levels, generally. The same is true in the Juniata watershed and the lower Susquehanna tributaries. With scattered exceptions, primarily in smaller tributaries, streams remain well above normal throughout the Susquehanna River basin.

In the Ohio River basin, Allegheny main stem and tributary flows have likewise all declined since Friday, as have the Monongahela and Beaver watershed flows. Nearly all the Monongahela watershed gages are below normal this morning, with the Monongahela at Braddock reading 13,200 cfs compared to a normal of 14,500. Other gages throughout the Ohio basin remain well above normal.

Ground water data is not available again this morning.

The 24-hour forecast indicates precipitation through Tuesday afternoon totaling 0.2-0.5 inches in the Ohio basin, 0.5-1.0 inches in the Susquehanna basin and 1.0-1.5 inches in the Delaware basin, with an additional 0.1-0.5 inches in the northern tier and upper and middle Delaware basin. The ten-day forecast adds another 0.5-1.0 inch across the state. Temperatures continue to be forecast to be above normal.

