

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

February 8, 1999

Precipitation over the past 24 hours was primarily concentrated in the southwestern and southeastern quadrants of the Commonwealth. Precipitation averaging nearly one-half inch was reported in Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland Counties. Slightly less precipitation fell over the southeastern corner of the state.

Delaware River system flows remain generally above normal, though declining. The Delaware River at Trenton this morning was flowing at 16,100 cubic feet per second (cfs), down from 22,600 cfs on Friday. Normal stream flow at Trenton for this time of year is 9750 cfs. The Lackawaxen, Lehigh, and Schuylkill River flows are also declining, but remain above normal. The Christina watershed is still an exception in the Delaware basin as ten of eleven gages are recording below normal readings this morning.

Stream flows in the Ohio River basin are mixed. Allegheny River basin flows are declining slightly but remain above normal. The Monongahela basin is showing the impact of recent precipitation in the watershed and flows are up significantly from last week. For example, flow in the Monongahela River at Braddock this morning was 22,400 cfs, more than double last Friday's flow. The Kiskiminetas River system is generally holding steady. The Ohio River flow at Sewickley at this morning was 68,700 cfs, up from 63,000 cfs Friday, and almost double normal flow for this time of year.

West Branch Susquehanna River flows in the upper reaches of the watershed are rising slightly while flows in the lower basin receding. The West Branch flow at Williamsport was down 2400 cfs from Friday to 14,100 cfs, and at Lewisburg, flows receded from 18,300 to 15,900 over the weekend. Main stem flows are all declining but remain well above normal. River flow at Harrisburg this morning was only down 600 cfs from Friday to 50,200 cfs. The Juniata and Conestoga River systems showed some decline over the weekend but still remain slightly above normal.

Groundwater levels remain generally stable across the state, with no significant improvement or decline being measured.

The extended weather forecast for eastern Pennsylvania calls for a chance of some showers in the northeast Thursday, a chance of rain Thursday night, and a chance of rain and snow Friday, except in the southeast where just rain is predicted. In western Pennsylvania, rain is likely Thursday, and a chance of rain or snow showers is predicted for Friday.

