

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

February 16, 1999

Precipitation Friday through Monday accumulated to 0.4-0.5 inches in the northwestern counties from Mercer to Warren and accumulated to 0.4-0.6 inches throughout the Delaware River basin. Elsewhere in the state totals ranged from 0.1-0.3 inches, with the least accumulations occurring across the southern tier counties. During the past 24 hours, an additional 0.05-0.25 inches fell in the northeastern counties from Potter to Monroe.

Reflecting the weekend precipitation, stream flows in the Delaware River basin are generally up, with the main stem Delaware River gages all recording increased flows; the Trenton gage is up from 11,400 cubic feet per second (cfs) Friday to 14,200 cfs this morning. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is up from 442 to 486 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is up from 2790 to 2900 cfs. The Schuylkill watershed is generally about even with Friday's readings, with the Reading and Philadelphia main stem gages unchanged at 1720 and 2420 cfs, respectively. Christina watershed flows are increased slightly, with Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford up from 216 to 235 cfs. Flows throughout the basin remain above normal, except in the Christina watershed where all gages are below normal.

Susquehanna River basin stream flows are also increased generally from Friday's levels. All main stem gages are up, with Harrisburg's gage reading 43,800 cfs compared to 36,000 on Friday. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge is up from 403 to 476 cfs. West Branch watershed flows are generally declined in the upper watershed and increased in the lower watershed. The Karthaus gage is down from 3910 to 2970 cfs, while the Lewisburg gage is increased from 12,100 to 13,300 cfs. The Juniata watershed is showing decreased readings throughout, with the Newport gage down from 3340 to 2910 cfs. Swatara Creek at Harpers Tavern, down from 509 to 430 cfs is reflective of the decreased flows in the lower Susquehanna basin tributaries. Flows throughout the basin are generally well above normal, with only scattered small headwater streams flowing at below-normal rates.

In the Ohio River basin, Allegheny River main stem flows are increased in the upper river and generally about even in the lower river, with Natrona gage reading 29,600 this morning, compared to 29,200 cfs on Friday. Allegheny tributaries are mixed, with the Clarion River at Piney up from 3450 to 3630 cfs and the Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift down from 4280 to 2210 cfs. Monongahela watershed flows are decreased significantly, with the Braddock gage down from 20,100 to 13,200 cfs. Upper Beaver River watershed flows are generally up, while the river at Beaver Falls is down from 6460 to 5200 cfs. The Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 47,500 to 42,100 cfs. Flows throughout the basin remain well above normal, except in the Monongahela watershed where nearly every gage is below normal this morning.

Groundwater levels showed an increasing trend in the northeast, and generally a decreasing trend elsewhere.

The 3-day forecast indicates approximately 0.2-0.3 inches of precipitation statewide, with the five-day forecast indicating a total of 1.5-2.0 inches in the northwest and 1.0-1.5 inches elsewhere. The 6-10-day forecast adds another 0.5-1.0 inch statewide.