

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**February 17, 1999**

Precipitation during the past 24 hours occurred as scattered showers mostly in the western half of the state, with total accumulations of less than 0.1 inch, generally about 0.01-0.05 inch. Lake effect precipitation provided about 0.25-0.5 inches in the northwest from about Mercer to Warren Counties.

Stream flows in the Delaware River basin are generally down very slightly, with the main stem Delaware River gages all showing decreased flows. The Trenton gage is down from 14,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 13,100 cfs. Tributary flows are somewhat mixed but generally decreased from yesterday. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is up from 486 to 518 cfs. Schuylkill flows are mixed, with the Pottstown gage up from 1920 to 2100 cfs and the Philadelphia gage down from 2420 to 2380 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 3170 to 2650 cfs. Christina watershed flows are decreased, with Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford down from 235 to 228 cfs. Flows throughout the basin continue above normal, except in the Christina watershed.

Susquehanna River basin stream flows are generally increased slightly in the upper basin and continuing their gradual decline elsewhere. The Susquehanna River at Harrisburg is down from 47,700 cfs to 44,400 cfs this morning. The West Branch watershed flows are generally declined, with the gage at Lewisburg reading 12,400 cfs, down from 13,300 cfs yesterday. The Juniata watershed is showing similar trends, with the river at Newport down from 2910 to 2850 cfs. Swatara Creek at Harper Tavern, down from 588 to 522 cfs, is reflective of the lower basin tributaries. Stream flows throughout the basin continue above normal, with a few exceptions on small tributaries.

In the Ohio River basin, the main stem Allegheny River gages are all down from yesterday, except Natrona, which is even at 29,600 cfs. Allegheny tributaries are generally decreased, with the Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift down from 2210 to 2200 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock decreased from 13,200 to 8730 cfs. Beaver River watershed flows are somewhat increased, with the river at Beaver Falls up from 5200 to 5340 cfs. Stream flows throughout the basin continue above normal, except in the Monongahela watershed.

Statewide, ground water levels generally continued to decline yesterday, with a few exceptions in the Delaware basin.

The forecast for the next three days indicates a total of less than 0.1 inch of precipitation in the form of light rain or showers for most of the state, with heaviest concentrations likely in the northwest. The five-day forecast indicates a total of 0.1-0.5 inches in the western two-thirds of the state, with totals reaching 1.0-1.5 in the extreme southeast. The ten-day forecast adds another 0.1-0.25 inch in the

Delaware and Susquehanna basins and 0.25-0.5 inches in the Ohio basin. Temperatures are to remain about normal through the next ten days.