

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

August 19, 1999

Since Monday, there was some light rain in Pennsylvania. Two gauges north of Philadelphia recorded amounts of 0.5 inches, but this small area encompasses less than ten percent of the state. Rainfall was also recorded in an area within about a 40-mile radius of Clarion County. This area represents perhaps 15% of the area of the state, and averaged about 0.20 inches of precipitation. Widely scattered rainfall amounts of 0.10 inches or less were also seen in other areas.

In the Delaware River Basin, mostly all streams have decreased flows since August 16. The mainstem Delaware River at Riegelsville is down from 4,260 to 3,370 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down from 26 to 23 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 878 to 437 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down from 1,410 to 402 cfs., and the Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 174 to 56 cfs. Many streams have significantly below normal flow for this date.

Since August 16, the Susquehanna Basin shows many decreasing stream flows. The exceptions are the West Branch Susquehanna River, and the Codorus Creek which have a general rising flow trend, while streams in the Chemung and Lackawanna River Basins are holding about even. The mainstem Susquehanna River at Towanda is down from 790 to 732 cfs. It is up at Wilkes-Barre from 1,260 to 1,280 cfs., and down at Harrisburg from 6,230 to 3,780 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna River at Renovo is down from 631 to 487 cfs. At Lock Haven it is up from 362 to 425 cfs. It is up at Williamsport from 776 to 1,090 cfs., and up at Lewisberg from 1,150 to 1,450 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is down from 2,570 to 925 cfs., and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is down from 302 to 88 cfs. Many streams in the Susquehanna Basin are substantially below normal for August 19.

Larger streams in the Ohio River Basin have mainly decreased flows over the last three days. Several of the upper basin tributaries tended to hold even, while the Monongahela River has a mix of rising and falling discharges. The Allegheny River at Natrona is down from 3,460 to 2,110 cfs. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 6,280 to 3,800 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is up from 464 to 499 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is even at 1,600 cfs., and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is down from 1,620 to 898 cfs. Many streams in the Ohio Basin remain well below normal flow for the date.

Since August 16, the 27 counties with monitoring wells showed a water level rise for five counties and a drop for 21. Lycoming County was unchanged. Water level rises ranged from 0.06 to 3.85 ft. with an average increase of 0.84 ft. Decreases ranged from 0.02 to 1.57 ft. with an average drop of 0.22 ft.

For the period August 19 to 24, 2.5 inches or more of rain is expected over the extreme eastern part of

the state, while the rest of Pennsylvania can expect an average of about 0.75 inches of precipitation. For the period August 24 to 29, the Commonwealth can look for less than 0.25 inches of rain to be rather evenly distributed across the state. For the next ten days, temperatures are expected to be normal to somewhat below normal early in the period, and above normal toward the end of the period.