

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

September 27, 1999

During the past 24 hours there were only three small pockets of light rainfall in Pennsylvania. There were averages of about 0.15 inches over the McKean County area, 0.10 inches over parts of the Clearfield County area and under 0.10 inches over a very small part of the Monroe-Northampton County area. Rainfall data for the period September 23 to 26 is not available this morning.

Most streams in the Delaware River Basin have receded since last Thursday except the lower reaches of both the Lehigh River Basin and the Christina River Basin. The mainstem Delaware River at Trenton is down from 9,530 to 7,830 cfs. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is down from 481 to 218 cfs. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is near even from 2,040 to 2,000 cfs. The Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is down from 4,680 to 2,090 cfs. and the Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 582 to 404 cfs. About 75% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at above normal flow for September 27.

All the streams in the Susquehanna River Basin had a general receding trend since September 23. The mainstem Susquehanna River is down at Towanda from 5,990 to 4,570 cfs., down at Wilkes-Barre from 9,610 to 8,420 cfs. and down at Harrisburg from 20,100 to 16,400 cfs. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down slightly at Lock Haven from 561 to 537 cfs., down at Williamsport from 2,080 to 1,260 cfs. and down at Lewisburg from 3,930 to 2,170 cfs. The Juniata River at Newport is down from 1,920 to 1,320 cfs. and the Conestoga River at Conestoga is down from 994 to 469 cfs. About half the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

The only major changes in the Ohio River Basin are a flow enhancement trend on the mainstem Allegheny and Ohio Rivers, and the recession of some scattered swells. There is a slight flow recession in the Monongahela River Basin as a whole. The Allegheny River at Natrona is up from 1,660 to 1,840 cfs. The mainstem Ohio River at Sewickley is up from 4,930 to 6,000 cfs. The Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is down from 536 to 243 cfs. The Monongahela River at Braddock is down from 1,960 to 1,320 cfs. and the Beaver River at Beaver Falls is close to even from 623 to 640 cfs. About 85% of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

Since September 23, 25 counties with monitoring wells show a water level rise for eight counties and a drop for 15. Wells for two counties show no change. Water level rises range from 0.02 to 5.29 ft. with an average increase of 0.99 ft. Decreases range from 0.10 to 1.81 ft. with an average drop of 0.58 ft.

The forecast for the next five days includes about 1.0 to 1.5 inches of rain to be about evenly distributed across the state. For the period October 2 to 7, one to five-tenths inches of rain is forecast,

with the heavier amounts expected toward the northwest. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be somewhat above normal.