Watershed MANAGEMENT 

Drought Information Center

April 3, 2000

The first two days of April show a measurable amount of precipitation for only four counties in Pennsylvania. For this period, totals of 0.20 inches occurred in Mercer County, and 0.10 inches appeared in Erie, Crawford and Lawrence Counties. Although only preliminary data is available for the past 24 hours, an average of at least 0.50 inches of precipitation in the northwest quadrant of the state seems likely. Since yesterday, 0.10 and 0.20 inches also seem to be reasonable precipitation estimates for the northeast and southwest quadrants of the Commonwealth respectively.

Since last Monday, mostly flow recessions are seen in the Delaware River Basin. Increased gauges are noted on the mainstem Delaware River and in the Lackawanna River Basin while stream flows in Bush Kill, Frankford Creek, Crum Creek and Ridley Creek basins are holding rather steady. The mainstem Delaware River is up from 13,600 to 14,600 cfs. at Riegelsville. The Lackawaxen River is almost even from 523 to 532 cfs. at Hawley. The Lehigh River is down from 3,730 to 3,180 cfs. at Bethlehem. The Schuylkill River is down from 6,970 to 4,060 cfs. at Philadelphia and the Brandywine Creek is down from 1,170 to 747 cfs. at Chadds Ford. About 70% of the stream gauges in the Delaware River Basin are at below normal flow for April 3.

Since March 27, the Susquehanna River Basin shows predominantly flow recessions. The only exceptions are flow enhancements in Tunkhannock Creek and Lackawanna River basins, and also enhancements on the upper reaches of the mainstem Susquehanna River. The mainstem Susquehanna River is up from 13,000 to 15,500 cfs. at Towanda, up from 19,000 to 21,800 cfs. at Wilkes-Barre, and down from 57,700 to 44,400 cfs. at Harrisburg. The West Branch Susquehanna River is down from 9,260 to 4,530 cfs. at Lock Haven, down from 14,800 to 7,330 cfs. at Williamsport, and down from 18,600 to 8,980 cfs. at Lewisburg. The Juniata River is down from 8,810 to 3,550 cfs. at Newport and the Conestoga River is down from 1,580 to 1,050 cfs. at Conestoga. About 95% of the stream gauges in the Susquehanna River Basin are at below normal flow for this date.

The Ohio River Basin additionally shows mainly flow recessions. There are gauge increases in Conewango Creek, Brokenstraw Creek, Oil Creek, French Creek and Beaver River basins. The Clarion River Basin shows mixed gauge changes. The Allegheny River is down from 20,600 to 11,000 cfs. at Natrona. The mainstem Ohio River is down from 35,200 to 21,500 cfs. at Sewickley. The Kiskiminetas River is down from 7,860 to 2,650 cfs. at Vandergrift. The Monongahela River is down from 15,300 to 8,560 cfs. at Braddock and the Beaver River is up from 2,280 to 2,730 cfs. at Beaver Falls. Essentially all of the stream gauges in the Ohio River Basin are at below normal flow for today's date.

Since March 27, 27 counties with monitoring wells show water level rises for five counties and drops for 22. Increases range from 0.09 to 2.38 ft. (Berks County) with an average rise of 0.73 ft. Decreases range from 0.05 to 3.39 ft. (Potter County) with an average drop of 0.67 ft.

From one-half to over two inches of precipitation (water equivalent) is forecast for Pennsylvania over the next five days, with expected total amounts increasing from southeast to northwest. For the period April 7 to12, between one-quarter and one-half inches of precipitation are expected statewide. Temperatures for the next ten days are expected to be above normal.