

# Watershed MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

June 24, 2002

On June 14, Governor Schweiker lifted the drought emergency for six counties and restored 14 other counties to normal status. Dauphin, Perry and Wayne counties were upgraded to drought watch status and Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties were upgraded to drought warning status. These counties are indicated on the drought status map and in the news release at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought>.

Through the first 23 days of June, county precipitation totals range from 1.8 inches (Fulton County) to 5.6 inches (McKean and Jefferson Counties). Departures from normal for the first 23 days of June range from -1.2 inches (Franklin County) to 2.1 inches (Indiana County). For the past 365 days, precipitation departures range from -17.5 inches (Philadelphia County) to +3.1 inches (Bradford County). Nine other counties, Lancaster, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Franklin, Perry, Bucks, Fulton and Bedford have departures for the last 365 days that equal or exceed -10.0 inches.

As of this morning, the daily streamflow readings were below normal across the southern portions of the Delaware and Susquehanna River Basins and across most of the Ohio River Basin. Daily streamflow readings across the state range from 13% of normal streamflow to as high as a factor of 4 times above the normal streamflow. Instantaneous streamflow readings of 162 gages for June 24th at 1:45 a.m. indicate that there was 13 gages with flows less than the 25th percentile, 11 at less than the 10th percentile and 2 at record lows. The 30-day streamflow duration graphs for June 24th reflect the affects that evaporation and transpiration have had on streamflows the past week. Most gages are still in the normal range, however the 30-day values have begun to drop, which is expected to occur this time of year. In the Delaware Basin all 18 stream gages are decreasing, with 3 gages in watch. All of the 31 gages show decreases in their 30-day average streamflow values in the Susquehanna River Basin, with one duration graph in emergency. Daily streamflow readings in the Delaware and Susquehanna Basins are dropping with the lowest flows occurring in the southeastern and south-central portions of the state. All of the gages in the Ohio River Basin are in the normal range however they are all now dropping.

The 30-day duration graphs for June 24th indicate that groundwater levels have begun to drop as evaporation, transpiration and minimal rainfall during the past week begin to have an affect on groundwater recharge. In the Delaware Basin, 12 of 13 groundwater-monitoring gages are decreasing, with 6 in emergency and 1 in watch. In the Susquehanna Basin 20 of 21 gages are decreasing with one well in emergency and 1 in watch. In the Ohio River Basin, all 13 gages are dropping with one well now in watch.

