

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

May 1, 2006

After some relief was provided by the previous weekend's soaking rains, little or no precipitation occurred during the past week. Stream flows recovered significantly immediately following the rain; however, by this weekend, flows have receded to below normal throughout most of the state.

Flows in many counties across the northern half of the state have receded to levels significantly below normal, and those indicator gages remain at emergency or near emergency levels.

Ground water, which generally showed some recovery as a result of the rains, has remained in a holding pattern in most counties since about mid-week, with a few scattered wells continuing recovery through the weekend and a few others beginning a decline after mid-week. Overall, ground water indicator wells remain in emergency or near emergency levels throughout the northeast, extending southwest into the lower central Susquehanna Valley.

Precipitation forecasts for the early part of this coming week indicate no precipitation, with the 7-day forecast only indicating up to a quarter inch in the very northeastern part of the state. The 14-day forecast provides hope for only about a quarter to half inch in the Delaware Basin and lower Ohio Basin. These levels of precipitation will provide little, if any, further recovery for ground water.

Considering current conditions and the forecasts for the coming week, the Commonwealth remains in a statewide drought watch status.