

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

June 19, 2006

The past week brought no measurable rainfall to the Ohio and most of the Susquehanna basins. The Delaware basin and easternmost and central portions of the Susquehanna basin received between 0.1 and 0.3 inches. The 120-day precipitation deficits reversed the trend from the previous week, and many county precipitation indicators receded from watch to warning or from warning to emergency. Only two counties, Philadelphia and Pike, are indicating normal 120-day precipitation at this time.

Stream flow indicator gages have shown only minor, but mixed, change over the past two weeks (no stream flow information was available when last week's report was prepared). Several gages in the upper Ohio and western Susquehanna basins improved from watch to normal; while a couple gages in the eastern Susquehanna basin slipped from watch to warning. Statewide, however, nearly all gages are experiencing a decline in their 30-day average flows. This is reflected in daily hydrographs statewide, which are nearly all at levels below the normal daily flows.

As with stream flows, no ground water data was available when last week's report was prepared. County indicator wells showed similar mixed changes over the past two weeks. Generally, there was modest improvement from warning to watch or from watch to normal at about a dozen county monitoring wells scattered throughout the Ohio and Susquehanna basins, with one county (Schuylkill) declining from warning to emergency, all based upon the 30-day averages. As with stream flows, the 30-day averages are declining statewide, more rapidly in the western half of the state than in the eastern half; and daily hydrographs are displaying levels below the daily normal values statewide.

Forecasts for the early part of this week indicate the possibility about a tenth to an inch of precipitation, with the heaviest amounts in the upper Ohio basin and lighter forecasts for the Susquehanna and Delaware basin areas. Most of that precipitation is to occur today, tomorrow and Thursday. The 7-day forecast indicates a total of a half to a full inch in the Susquehanna and Delaware basins and about 1 to 2.5 inches in the Ohio. The 7-14-day forecast is quite encouraging, showing an additional 2 to 4 inches across most of the state, with up to 5 inches in the northeastern areas.

The Commonwealth remains in a statewide drought watch status.