

Watershed MANAGEMENT



Drought Information Center

June 26, 2006

The past week brought significant precipitation across the entire Commonwealth, ranging from 0.9 to 4.6 inches. Delaware County recorded the low and Lebanon County recorded the high. More generally, though, precipitation totaled about 2 to 3 inches across most of the state. The northern tier counties received somewhat lesser quantities in the 1 to 1.5 inch range, as did a few southwestern counties. The 120-day precipitation showed marked improvement after the downward trend of the previous week. Three central Potomac Basin counties continue to indicate emergency precipitation conditions for the 120-day period; while other emergency indicators from last week have now improved to warning, and last week's warning indicators have generally improved to watch. Likewise, the previous watch indicators have improved to normal.

Stream flow indicators remain predominately in normal; only two of last week's 15 non-normal indicator gages have improved to normal this week, based on 30-day average flows. Daily hydrographs spiked statewide with the past 48 hours' rains; most are currently at levels well above normal.

Similar to stream flows, two county ground water indicator wells improved to normal, out of 11 that were indicating non-normal conditions last week, based upon 30-day average ground water levels. A sampling of monitoring wells indicates that only about one out of five daily hydrographs has shown measurable reaction to the heavy weekend precipitation.

Forecasts for the early part of this week indicate the possibility about 1 to 3 inches of precipitation, with the heaviest amounts in the Susquehanna and Delaware basin areas. Most of that precipitation is to occur today through Wednesday. The 7-day forecast indicates a total of 2 to 6 inches in the Susquehanna and Delaware basins and about 1.5 to 2 inches in the Ohio. The 7-14-day forecast only indicates an additional quarter to an inch of precipitation.

Overall, conditions have improved during the past week, and it can be anticipated that the next few days will bring further improvement, while the Commonwealth remains in a statewide drought watch status at this time.

