

October 2, 2007

Over the last 7 days, the western half of the state has received normal to well above normal precipitation; Southcentral PA to Northeast PA has received somewhat below normal; and Southeastern Pa has received well below normal precipitation. The monthly trend indicates the entire state has a precipitation deficit (with the exception of Crawford County). The border counties are showing milder deficits in the order of 1.0 - 1.5 inches; the interior counties are showing 2.0 - 3.0 inch deficits; and some of the southeastern counties are showing 3.0 - 3.5 inch deficits.

The 90-day precipitation drought indicator changes, drought "watch" status continues for nine counties near the Northcentral part of the state and one southeastern county and four southeastern counties are now indicated as precipitation drought "warning" status.

Stream flow indicators continue to drop due to the lack of rainfall. This trend will most likely continue, as the potential for any significant rainfall over the next two weeks is low. The average 30-day streamflow values have returned to drought conditions across the state, of which there are now 20 counties in drought "watch" status, an addition of 6 counties since the September 26 report, two in drought "warning" and two in drought "emergency". The Pennsylvania Daily Streamflow Map indicates that flows are below normal across the state with six gages recording instantaneous flows at record lows. The southeastern portion of the state and the northcentral region of Pennsylvania have the lowest instantaneous streamflow readings. Of note, the Clinton County drought monitoring gage has moved from "watch" status to "emergency" status in less than one week.

Groundwater levels continue to show stress with indicators moving from "normal" to "watch" in four counties (Lawrence, Mercer, Northumberland and Snyder) and remaining at the same level for the other 23 counties in either watch or emergency.

The 7-day forecast predicts no precipitation across the state, which is extremely below normal for this time of year. The 8-14 day forecast indicates the western portion of PA to see 1.0 inches increasing easterly to a possible 2.5 inches near the Delaware basin.

Precipitation deficits over the last month are negatively impacting streamflow levels in portions of the state. DEP is evaluating the addition of several counties be included in the drought "watch" declaration. The addition of these counties will be based upon the county drought indicator status for the four drought monitoring criteria as well as the status of Public Water Suppliers that may be experiencing problems due to drought conditions.