

**October 10, 2007**

During the past 30 days, precipitation deficits range from about 2.0 to 2.5 inches in the central and southcentral regions of the state and 1.5 to 2.0 inches for the border counties. Several Southeast counties are showing extreme deficits of 3.0 + inches. The 90-day deficits range from about 1.5 to 2.5 inches in the northwest, while the deficits range from about 2.0 to 4.0 inches or higher in the southeast.

Stream flow indicators remain low except for a small portion of the northeast and southeast where last evenings rainfall caused some streams to reach above normal flows. Based on a review of these gages, the recovery will be short lived as flows have already peaked and are dropping. Some have already returned to near pre-rainfall event flows. There are now 23 counties in drought "watch", of which seven new counties have been added since the last report. Four counties have been added to drought "warning" status for a total of six counties. The Pennsylvania Daily Streamflow Map indicates that flows continue to remain below normal with two gages; one each in Clinton and Centre Counties, at record lows. The Middle and Upper Susquehanna River Basin currently have the lowest flows based on a review of current reported streamflows.

Groundwater levels continue to show stress with indicators moving from "normal" to "watch" in four counties (Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Venango and Wayne) and moving from "watch" to "warning" in six counties (Bradford, Columbia, Lawrence, Luzerne, Mercer and Susquehanna).

Forecasts for the next 7-days indicate the possibility of a maximum of 1 inch in the northern tier, 0.5 inches maximum in the central tier, and only 0.25 inches expected in the Southcentral region. The 7-14-day forecast indicates that 1.5 to 2.0 inches of rain may occur across most of the Commonwealth. While these levels of precipitation would be welcome, they will provide little, if any, recovery for stream flow or groundwater levels.

The Commonwealth remains in a drought watch status for 53 counties and a drought warning status for Clinton County.