

**SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS
IN THE
UPPER DELAWARE RIVER BASIN
December 2004**

Prepared by the
Office of the Delaware River Master
Milford, Pennsylvania

Adjusted streamflow in the upper Delaware River Basin during December was excessive. The maximum daily mean discharge of 26,800 cfs occurred on December 2. The minimum daily mean discharge was 6,230 cfs on December 22.

The observed monthly mean streamflow of the Delaware River at Montague, N.J. during December was 13,180 cfs, which is 268 percent of median. The flow at Montague, adjusted for diversions from the basin and change in storage in the major reservoirs, was 13,790 cfs, or 224 percent of median (water years 1971-2000).

On the basis of a 5-station average, precipitation during December was 4.04 inches, which is 119 percent of the 64-year average. The maximum daily-average precipitation during the month was 1.30 inches on December 24. Precipitation in the upper Delaware River Basin during the past 12 months was 8.13 inches more than the long-term average. Precipitation during December was 0.64 inches more than the long-term average for the month.

Combined storage January 1, 2005 in Pepacton, Cannonsville, and Neversink Reservoirs was 100 percent of capacity above the point of maximum depletion. The combined storage of 271 billion gallons was 3 billion gallons more than that of one month ago and 3 billion gallons less than that of one year ago. Median storage on the first day of January in 37 years of record is 190 billion gallons. Pepacton and Cannonsville Reservoirs spilled 22 and 38 billion gallons, respectively, in December.

As part of a statewide network, the USGS operates 12 observation wells in the Pennsylvania part of the Delaware River Basin. Mean water levels during December were above average in all of the wells. Water levels in all of the wells were above November 2004 levels, and water levels in 7 of the wells were below December 2003 levels.

HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS IN THE UPPER DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

Compiled by the Office of the Delaware River Master, Milford, Pa.

(Preliminary data - subject to revision)

PRECIPITATION, IN INCHES

	Dec. 1940 to Dec. 2003		January 2004 to December 2004					
	Average		Actual		Percent of average		Excess (+) or deficit (-)	
	Amount	Cumulative	Amount	Cumulative	By month	Cumulative	By month	Cumulative
Jan.	2.98	43.42	2.60	51.55	87	119	-.38	+8.13
Feb.	2.64	40.44	1.41	48.95	53	121	-1.23	+8.51
Mar.	3.35	37.80	2.22	47.54	66	126	-1.13	+9.74
Apr.	3.72	34.45	3.84	45.32	103	132	+.12	+10.87
May	4.21	30.73	4.81	41.48	114	135	+.60	+10.75
June	4.03	26.52	3.02	36.67	75	138	-1.01	+10.15
July	4.03	22.49	6.82	33.65	169	150	+2.79	+11.16
Aug.	3.84	18.46	7.49	26.83	195	145	+3.65	+8.37
Sept.	3.99	14.62	9.64	19.34	242	132	+5.65	+4.72
Oct.	3.43	10.63	2.02	9.70	59	91	-1.41	-.93
Nov.	3.80	7.20	3.64	7.68	96	107	-.16	+.48
Dec.	3.40	3.40	4.04	4.04	119	119	+.64	+.64

Note: Amount shown in cumulative columns is total from month shown to present.

* Revised since last month.

STREAMFLOW, IN CFS
DELAWARE RIVER AT MONTAGUE, N.J.

Month	1940-2003			2004 Monthly mean	Percent of median
	Maximum	Median	Minimum		
December (observed)	18,830 (1996)	4,916	1,665 (1998)	13,180	268
December (adjusted)	20,880 (1973)	6,506	1,624 (1998)	13,790	212
January (observed)	15,600 (1996)	4,922	1,318 (1981)		
January (adjusted)	21,330 (1996)	5,821	1,064 (1981)		