

**SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS
IN THE
UPPER DELAWARE RIVER BASIN
December 2008**

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 40,200 cfs was recorded on December 12. The minimum daily mean discharge was 3,870 cfs on December 8.

The observed monthly mean streamflow of the Delaware River at Montague, N.J. during December was 12,530 cfs, which is 247 percent of median. The flow at Montague, adjusted for diversions from the basin and change in storage in the major reservoirs, was 15,590 cfs, or 253 percent of median (water years 1971-2000).

On the basis of a 5-station average, precipitation during December was 6.26 inches, which is 184 percent of the 68-year average. The maximum daily-average precipitation during the month was 1.95 inches on December 12. Precipitation in the upper Delaware River Basin during the past 12 months was 6.35 inches more than the long-term average. Precipitation during December was 2.85 inches more than the long-term average for the month.

Combined storage January 1, 2009 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 47 billion gallons more than that of one month ago and 21 billion gallons more than that of one year ago. Median storage on the first day of January in 41 years of record is 206 billion gallons. Pepacton and Neversink Reservoirs spilled 861 and 1 million gallons, respectively, in December.

As part of statewide networks, the USGS operates ground-water observation wells in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey parts of the Delaware River Basin. Mean water levels during December were below average in 14 of 20 observation wells. Water levels in 18 of the wells were above November 2008 levels, and water levels in 14 of the wells were below December 2007 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. 2007		January 2008 to December 2008					
	Average		Actual		Percent of average		Excess (+) or deficit (-)	
	Amount	Cumulative	Amount	Cumulative	By month	Cumulative	By month	Cumulative
Jan.	3.06	43.88	2.15	50.23	70	114	-.91	+6.35
Feb.	2.60	40.82	6.30	48.08	242	118	+3.70	+7.26
Mar.	3.33	38.22	6.52	41.78	196	109	+3.19	+3.56
Apr.	3.78	34.89	3.22	35.26	85	101	-.56	+.37
May	4.15	31.11	2.80	32.04	67	103	-1.35	+.93
June	4.10	26.96	3.43	29.24	84	108	-.67	+2.28
July	4.07	22.86	*6.00	25.81	147	113	+1.93	+2.95
Aug.	3.91	18.79	2.24	19.81	57	105	-1.67	+1.02
Sept.	4.04	14.88	4.81	17.57	119	118	+.77	+2.69
Oct.	3.61	10.84	4.44	12.76	123	118	+.83	+1.92
Nov.	3.82	7.23	2.06	8.32	54	115	-1.76	+1.09
Dec.	3.41	3.41	6.26	6.26	184	184	+2.85	+2.85

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	1940-2007			2008 Monthly mean	Percent of median
	Maximum	Median	Minimum		
December (observed)	18,830 (1996)	5,080	1,665 (1998)	12,530	247
December (adjusted)	20,880 (1973)	6,754	1,624 (1998)	15,590	231
January (observed)	16,060 (2006)	5,472	1,318 (1981)		
January (adjusted)	21,330 (1996)	6,074	1,064 (1981)		