

Hydrologic Conditions – October 2015

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of October 2015 and can be accessed at:

<http://ny.water.usgs.gov/projects/eom/>

The average precipitation across most of New York was between 2 and 3 inches, but ranged from 2.07 inches in Yates County to 3.98 inches in Oneida County during the month. All counties reported precipitation deficits with rainfall totals from 0.23 to 2.18 inches below normal quantities for October. Much of New York, especially the Adirondack Region and eastern areas of the State, including Long Island, continues to have cumulative precipitation deficits of 5 to 10 inches since January 1, 2015, according to the National Weather Service (<http://www.weather.gov/nerfc/watersupply>). Several counties in these areas have cumulative deficits of 10 to 15 inches.

Streamflows were generally low for most of the month until heavy rainfall on October 28-29 increased flows, such that on a monthly basis, most sites across the State reported normal flow conditions. Exceptions included three index basins in western New York, which recorded above-normal flow conditions, and a site on Long Island, which reported below-normal flows. New York City reservoirs were collectively near normal capacity (about 73 percent) at the end of October.

Groundwater levels were both above- and below-normal levels across the State, with no discernible pattern. Just over half of the reporting sites, 52 percent, reported water levels within their respective normal ranges, whereas 38 percent of the sites reported low-to-very-low water levels. Most of low and very-low levels were recorded at locations mainly in the northern and eastern areas of the State. All the wells with very-low water levels were from sites with less than 12 years of record. Most of the wells that reported above-normal water levels were found in the western part of the State.

Exceedance percentages shown on the Hydrologic Conditions Mapper are calculated for individual USGS sites. This information along with additional information from other Federal, State, and local agencies assist the NYSDEC and the State Drought Management Task Force to evaluate regional conditions for determination of drought classifications.

Let me know if you have any questions.