

Hydrologic Conditions – February 2016

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of February 2016 and can be accessed at:

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

The average precipitation across most of New York for February was generally between 2.9 and 4.1 inches, but ranged from 2.16 inches in Yates County to 4.87 inches in Oswego County. Precipitation totals exceeded normal monthly quantities in all counties. Departures from normal precipitation quantities ranged from 0.11 inches above normal in Chautauqua County to 1.89 inches above normal in Tioga County.

Monthly streamflows were above normal magnitudes at all monitoring sites except for two locations. Oatka Creek in western New York recorded flows in that basin's normal range, whereas flows in Connetquot Brook on Long Island were below normal. Above-normal flows were sustained by periodic rainfall and intermittent periods of snowfall followed by snowmelt. On February 25, minor flooding occurred in eastern New York as a result of 1.5 to 3.0 inches of rain, and minor flooding occurred at a few locations in northern New York due to ice jams. The unseasonable runoff increased water storage in New York City reservoirs to almost 96 percent of capacity at the end of the month; well above the normal capacity of 87 percent.

The majority of groundwater levels across the State were at or near normal levels. Twenty-seven percent of all sites reported low-to-very-low water levels with a slightly higher percentage of water-table wells (versus bedrock wells) in this category. About the same percentage of groundwater sites—17 percent of water-table wells and 19 percent of bedrock wells—reported above-normal water levels. There was no discernible pattern among wells that reported above-normal or below-normal water levels; both categories were found scattered across 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.