

Hydrologic Conditions – April 2016

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

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

Precipitation totals for April ranged from 0.79 inches in Livingston County to 2.33 inches in Oneida County and were below average across New York, generally by 1.6 to 1.9 inches, but by as much as 3 inches, as was the case in New York City. The largest departures from normal quantities were reported in the southeastern corner of the State and on Long Island.

Given the precipitation deficits that existed across the State, it is not surprising that streamflows were generally below normal. Ramapo River at Ramapo in Rockland and Orange Counties, a station with 37 years of record, recorded a monthly mean flow that was greater than its 99-percent flow-exceedance probability (that is, its monthly flow was less than that which occurs 99-percent of the time at this site). The only exceptions to the below-normal monthly flow pattern were Little Salmon River at the northern end of the State and Canajoharie Creek, which recorded monthly flows in their respective normal ranges

Despite the dry weather, New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 98-percent capacity at the end of the month, which is less than 1-percent below normal capacity for the end of April.

About 48 percent of groundwater levels across the State were at or near normal levels. About 10 percent of wells reported above-normal water levels, whereas 42 percent reported low-to-very-low water levels. This latter group comprised about the same percentage of water-table and bedrock wells. There was no discernible pattern among wells that reported above-normal or below-normal water levels; except that all wells in the southeastern corner of the State and on Long Island reported below-normal water levels.

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.