Hydrologic Conditions – May 2016

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

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

Precipitation totals for May ranged from 1.15 inches in Suffolk County to 5.69 inches in Livingston County. Although precipitation in Livingston County was 2.6 inches greater than normal amounts, the surrounding counties were generally within 1 inch of normal quantities. Elsewhere in the northern part and eastern half of New York, precipitation quantities were generally below normal; in some cases –that is, Columbia and Dutchess Counties and on Long Island—by more than 2.5 inches.

Streamflows ranged from normal to “very dry”. Below-normal streamflows were recorded in the Adirondack Mountain Region, on Long Island, the Mohawk River basin, and scattered sites elsewhere in the State. Normal flow levels were recorded across the Southern Tier and the Catskill Mountain Region.

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 98-percent capacity at the end of the month, which is normal for the end of May.

About 46 percent of groundwater levels across the State were at or near normal levels. About 10 percent of wells reported above-normal water levels, whereas 44 percent reported low-to-very-low water levels. Sixty percent of the reporting water-table wells and 32 percent of bedrock wells fell into this latter group (low-to-very-low water levels). There was no discernible pattern among wells that reported above-normal or below-normal water levels; except that wells in the southeastern corner of the State, on Long Island, and in the Upper Hudson River basin generally 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.