

Hydrologic Conditions – July 2016

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

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

Precipitation data for July have not yet been updated on this site.

Streamflows ranged from normal to very dry in New York. Normal flows were generally recorded along the main stem of the upper Susquehanna River and Mohawk River Basins, as well as at index stations in the Catskill Mountains region. Sparse precipitation over much of western New York has kept streamflows below-normal in basins west of and including the Chenango River basin and has resulted in even lower streamflows than existed during June at some index stations. Of note is the change from dry to normal flows in the upper Hudson River basin; however detailed analysis of flows during the last seven days of June indicate below-normal flows at sites in the Adirondack Mountain region that on a monthly basis show normal flow levels. This apparent discrepancy illustrates the dynamic character of streamflows given the dry conditions across most of the State. Below-normal streamflows were also recorded at sites in the lower Hudson River region and on Long Island.

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 86-percent capacity at the end of the month, which is 1.6 percent less than normal for the end of July.

About 30 percent of groundwater levels at index sites across the State were at or near normal levels. Only 2 percent of wells reported above-normal water levels, whereas 68 percent reported low-to-very-low water levels. Fifty-six percent of the reporting bedrock wells had water levels that were below normal levels; whereas 75 percent of the reporting water-table wells had water levels that were below normal levels. Of the 81 reporting wells, 22 reported new record low monthly median values for July; however, of these 22 wells, only four had periods of record that exceeded 13 years. Although wells with normal and above-normal water levels could be found scattered across the State, wells with below-normal water levels appeared to be clustered in the northwestern corner of the State and across the central Finger Lakes region, as well as around the perimeter of the Adirondack Mountains, in the Capital District, and on Long Island.

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.