Hydrologic Conditions

A year in review

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December 10th, 2025

DRBC 4Q Commission Meeting

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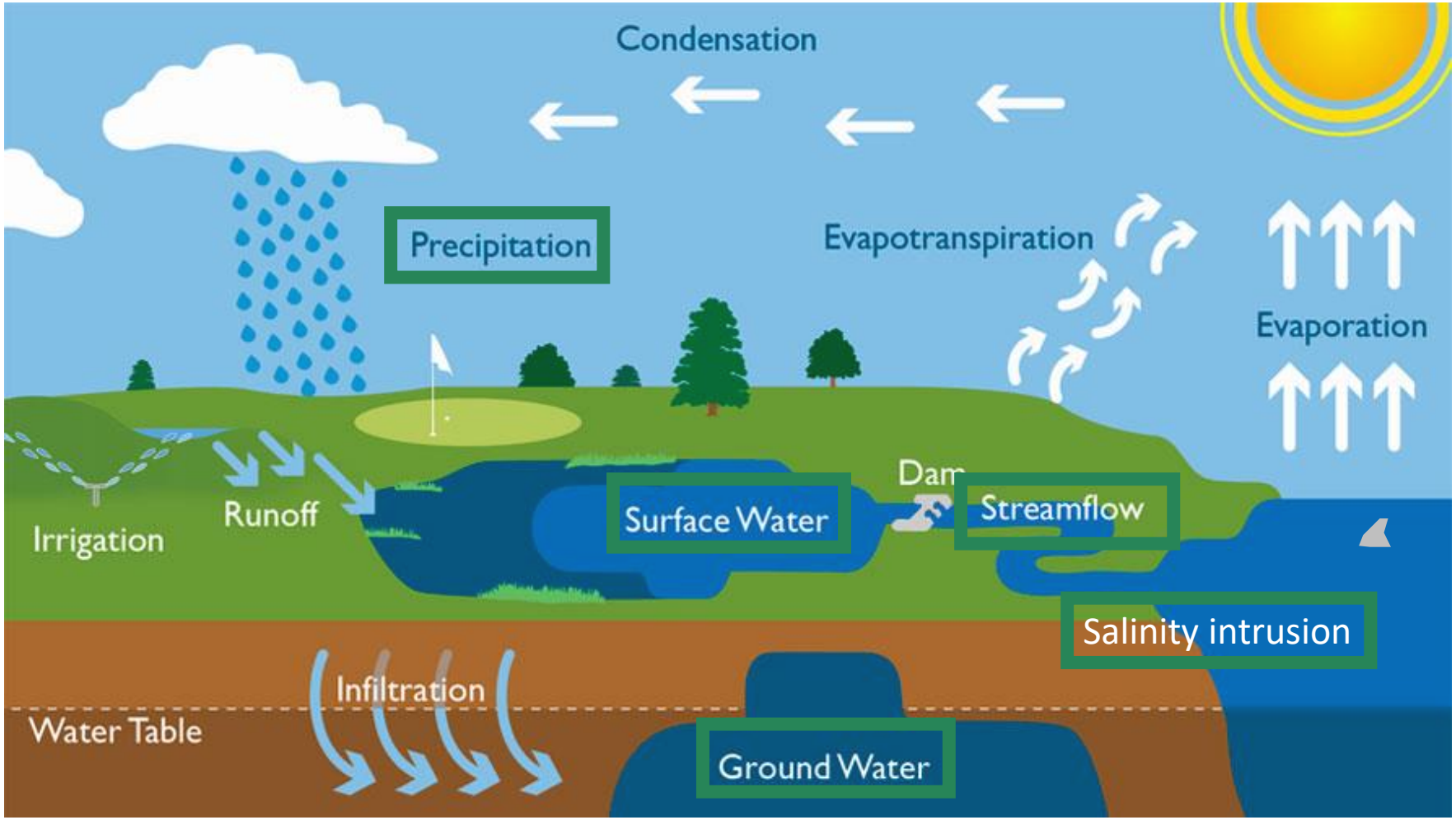
The Hydrologic Cycle

Water moves around the earth through air, soil, and over land.



Graphic courtesy of Pike County Soil Conservation District

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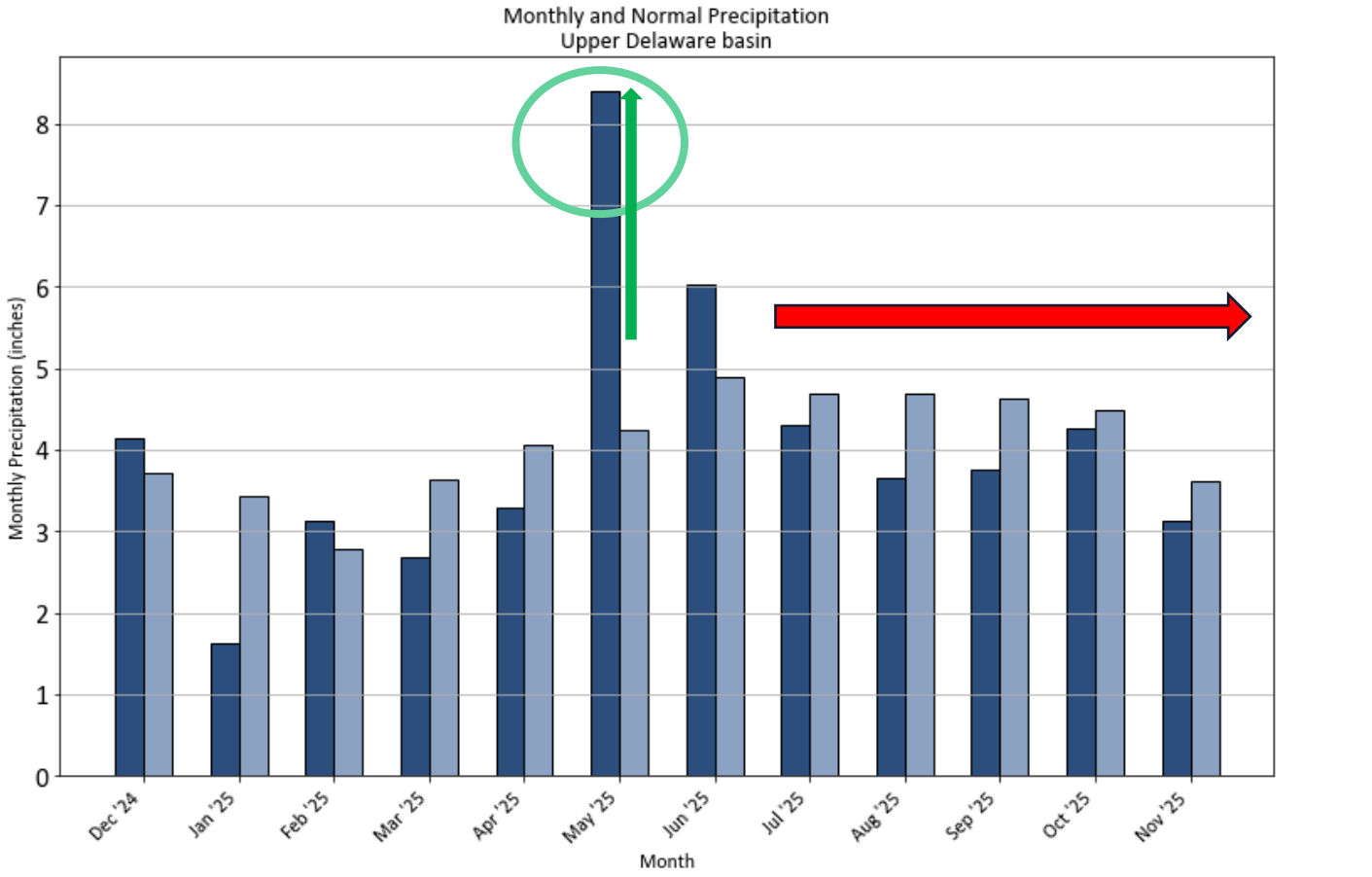
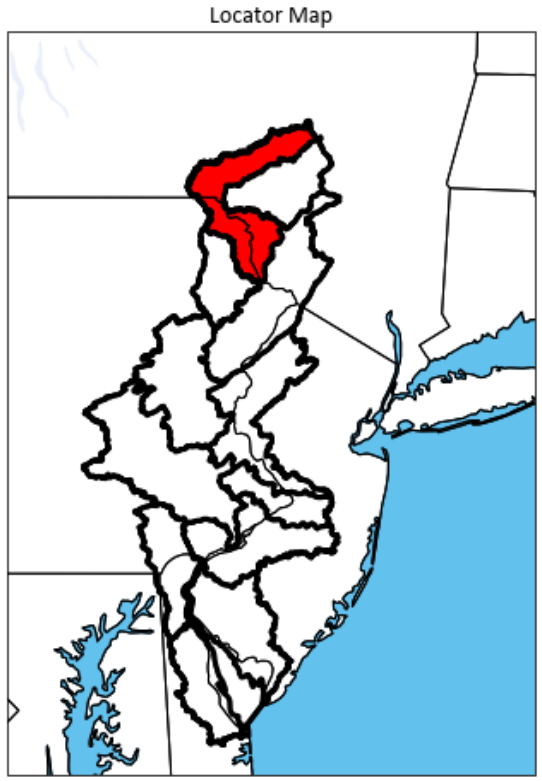
Precipitation between December 2024 to November 2025, Upper Basin (past 365 days)

Precipitation has been running slightly below normal the last 5 months.





Source: ACIS, USGS HUC: 02040101
Monthly Normal is based of 4 stations in the Upper Delaware basin

Data Source: ACIS

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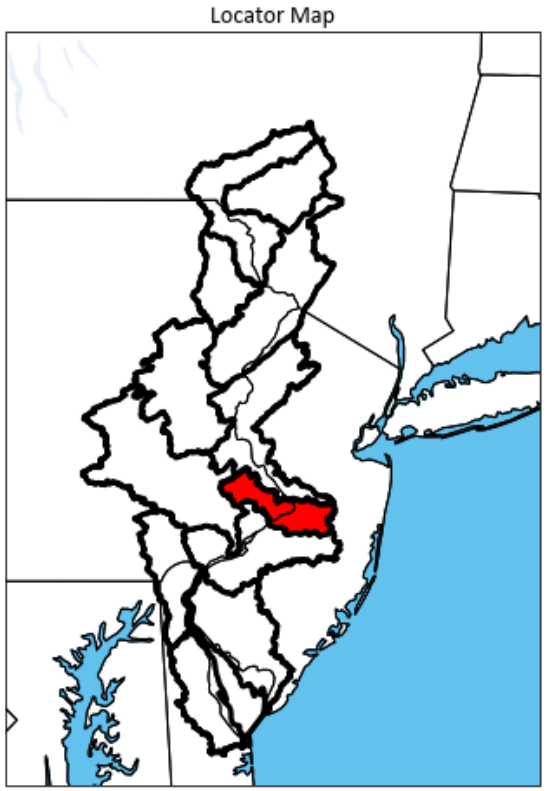
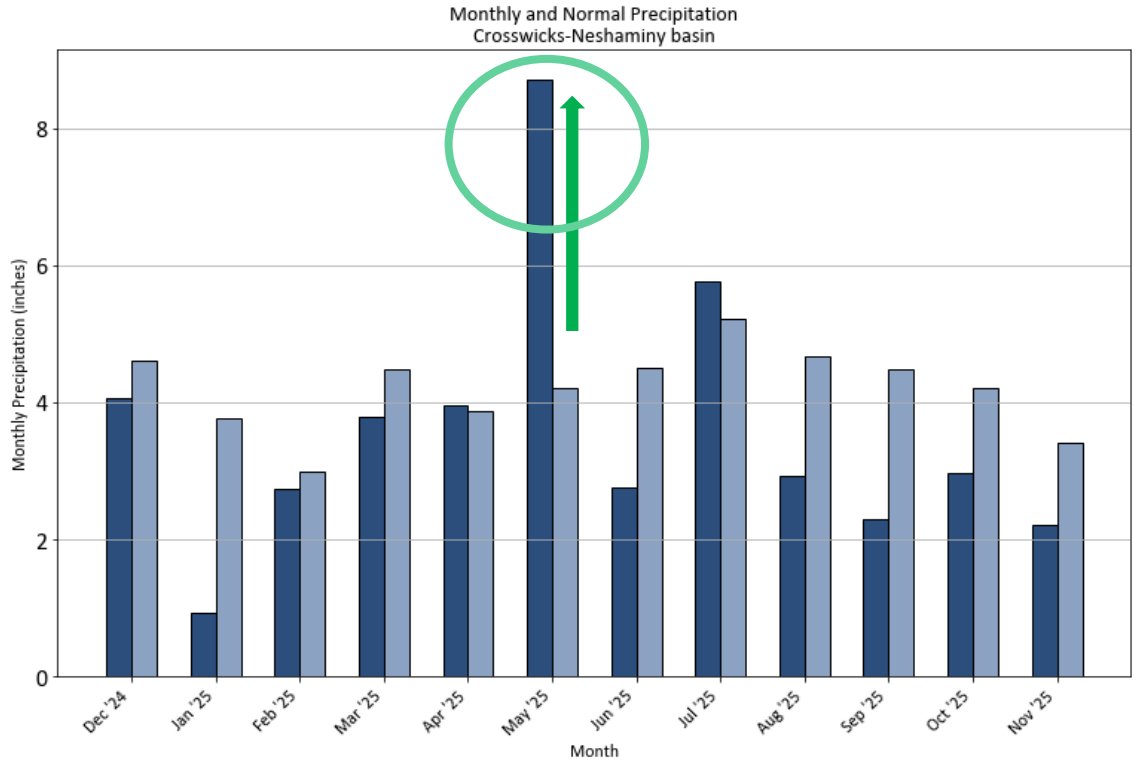
Precipitation between December 2024 to November 2025, Middle Basin (past 365 days)

Precipitation has been running slightly below normal the last 4 months.



Source: ACIS, USGS HUC: 02040201
Monthly Normal is based of 5 stations in the Crosswicks-Neshaminy basin



Monthly Observed Precipitation
Monthly Normal (1991 - 2020)

Data Source: ACIS

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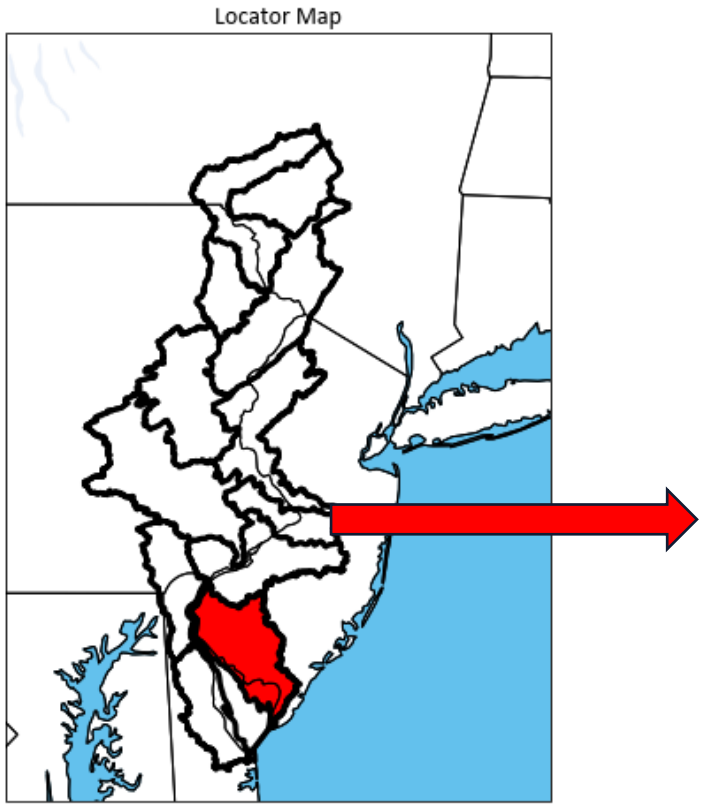
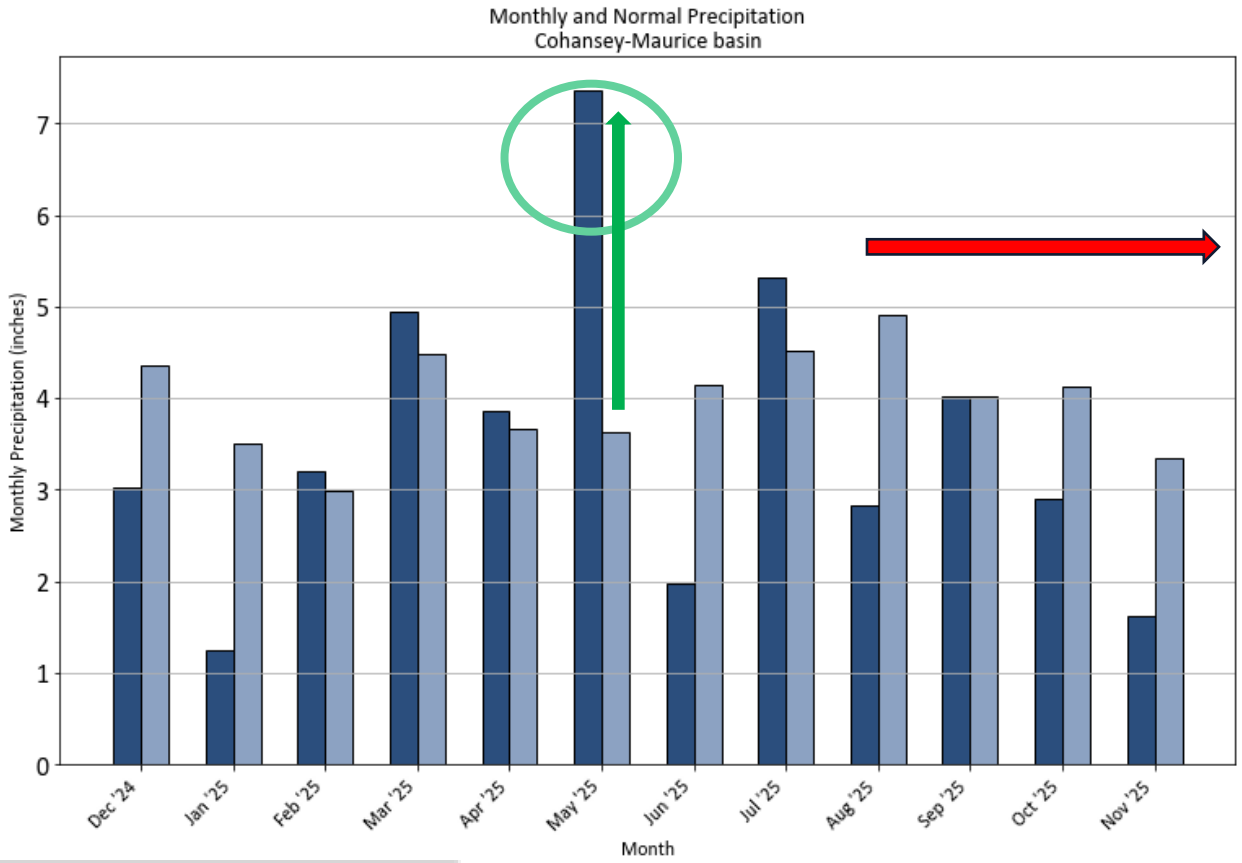
Precipitation between June 2024 to May 2025, Lower Basin

(past 365 days)

Precipitation has been below normal since June (except July)



Source: ACIS, USGS HUC: 02040206
Monthly Normal is based of 3 stations in the Cohansey-Maurice basin



Data Source: ACIS

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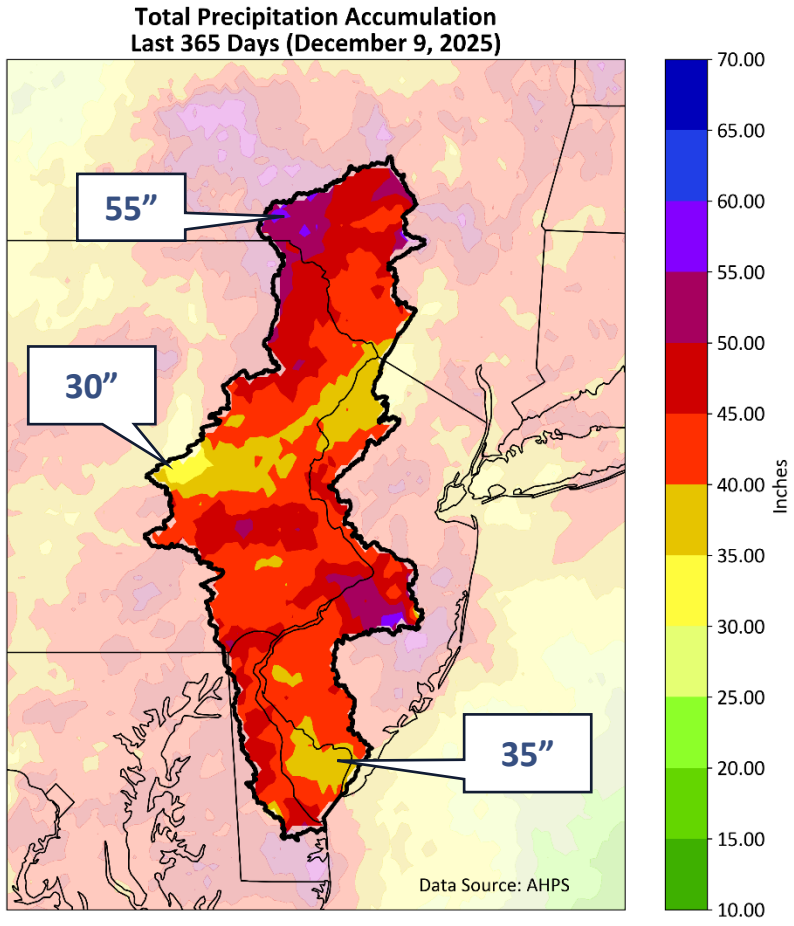
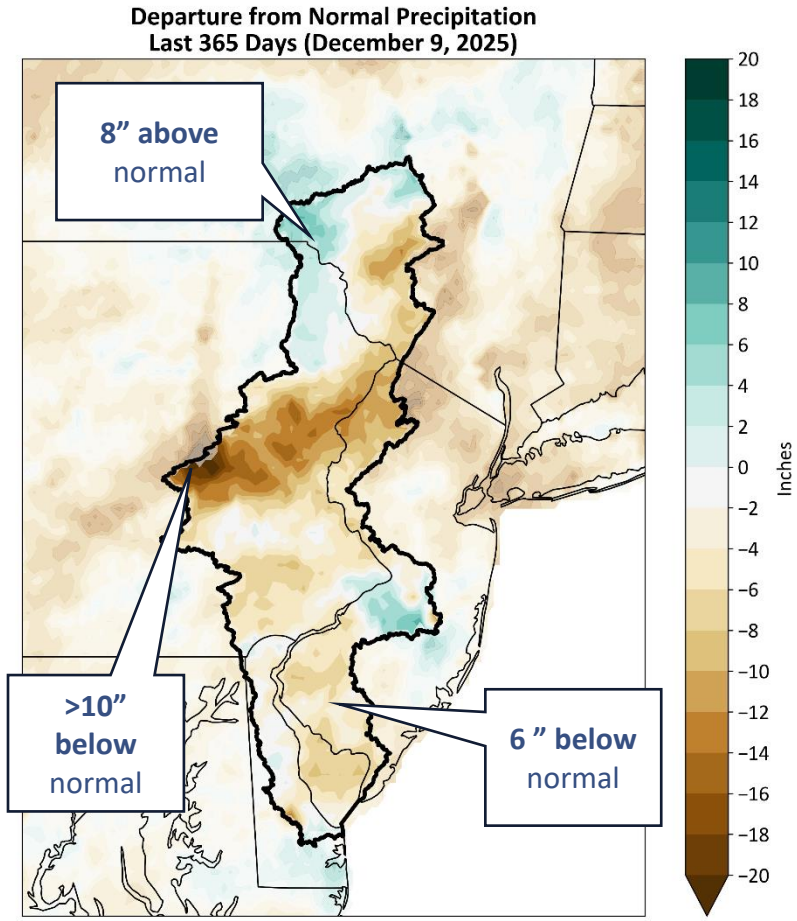
Cumulative Precipitation over the last 365 days

Cumulative totals remain below normal except for the Northwest part of the basin.

Normal ~ 45 inches





Data Source: NOAA

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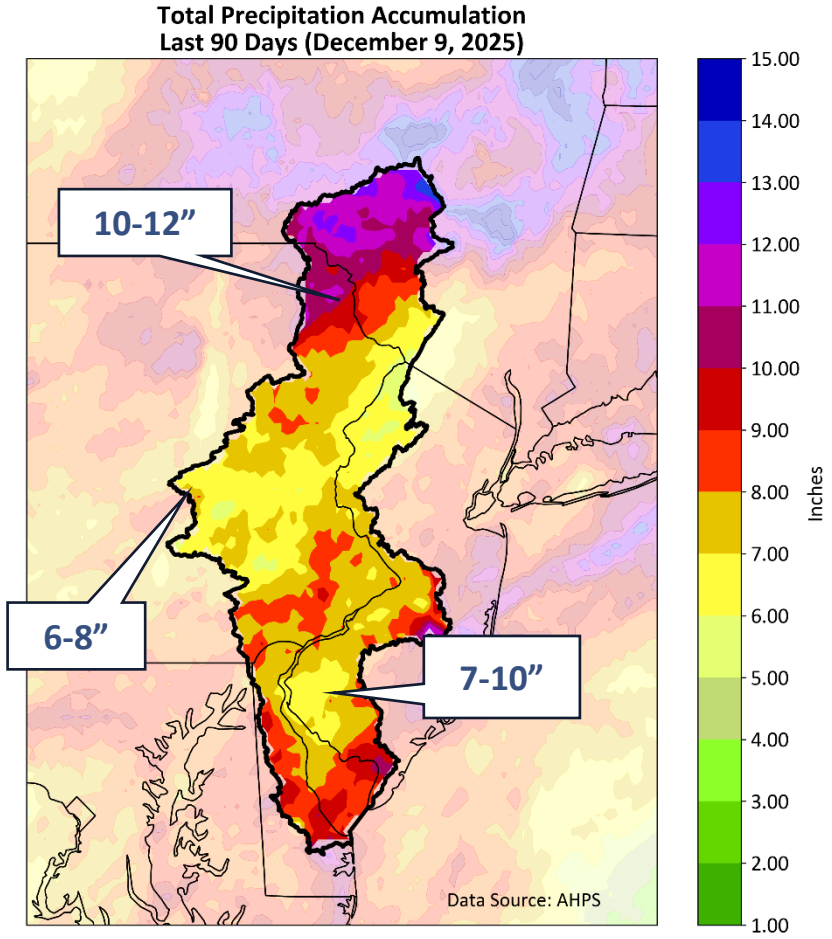
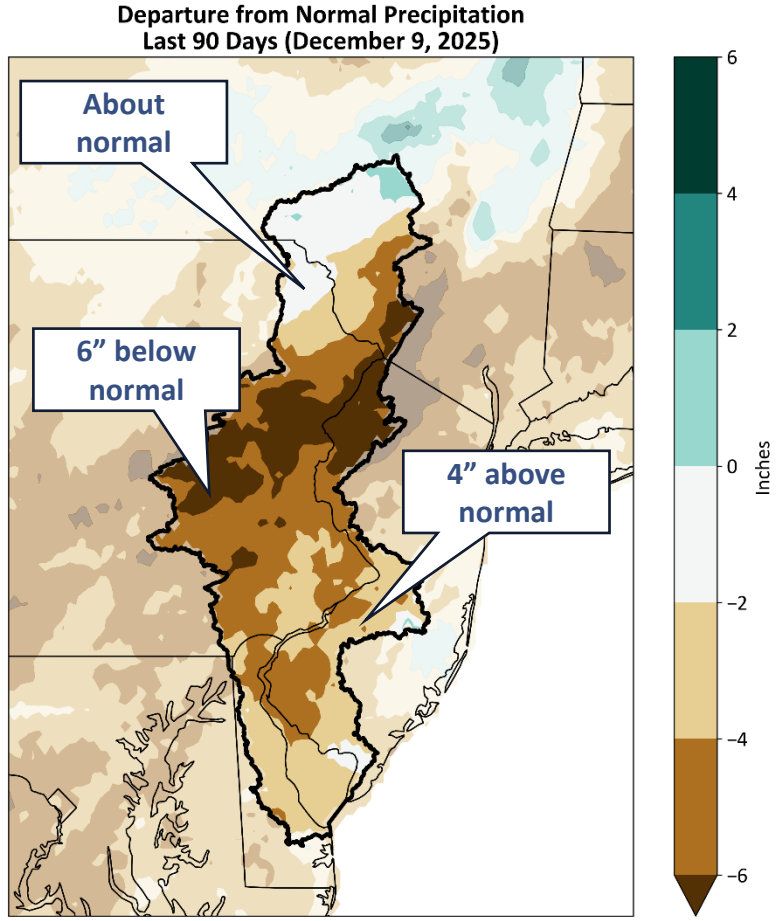
Cumulative Precipitation – Last 90 days

The last three months indicate a drying trend rainfall totals.

Normal ~ 12 inches





Data Source: NOAA

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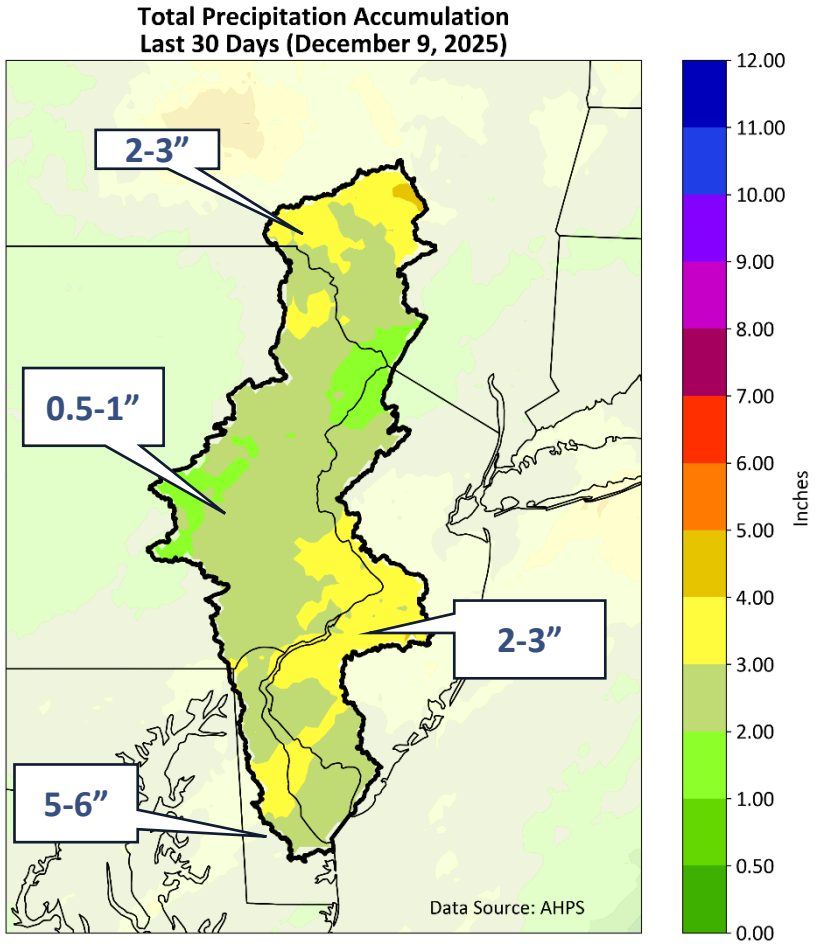
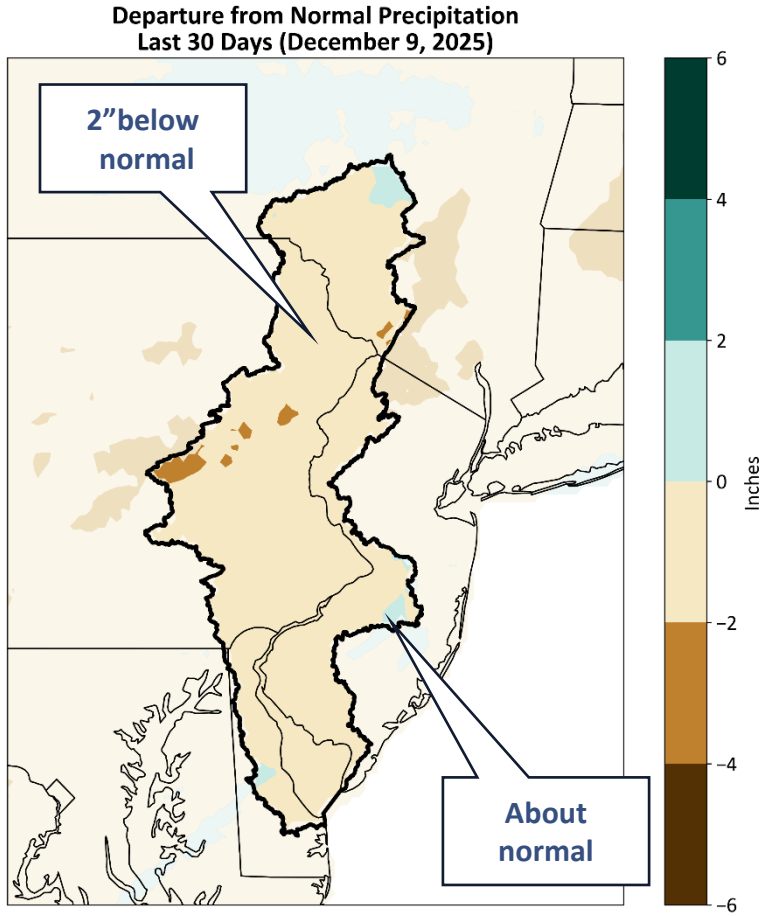
Cumulative Precipitation – Last 30 days

Below normal throughout the basin the last 30 days.

Normal ~ 4 inches





Data Source: NOAA

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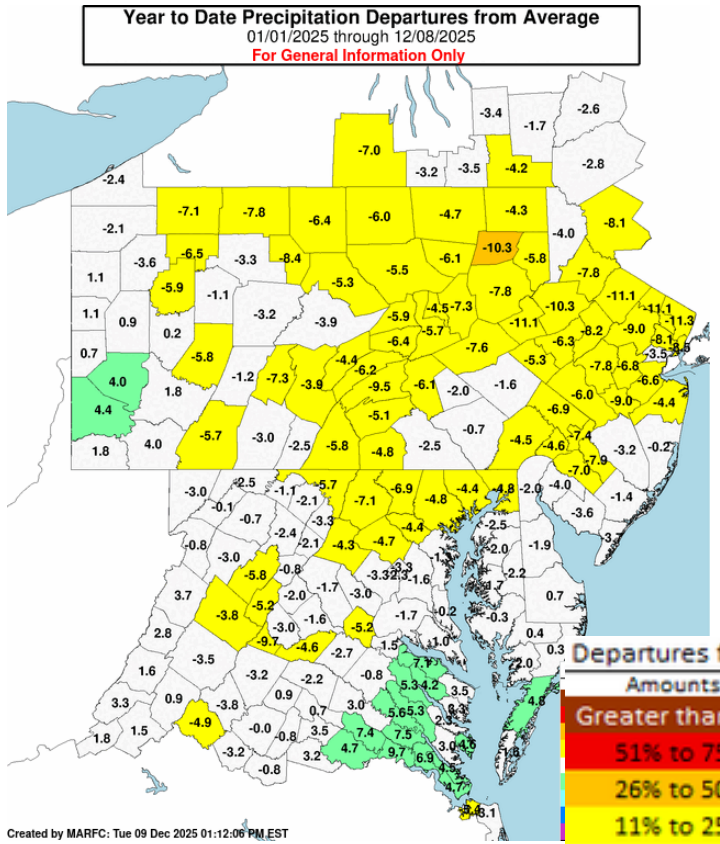
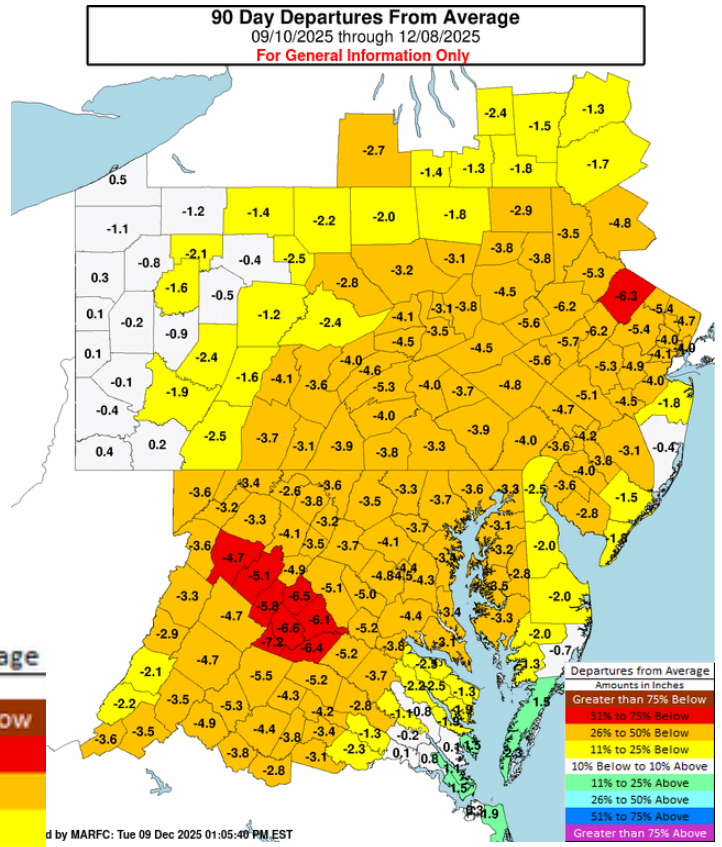
Precipitation Departures Summarized by County

Conditions have significantly dried over the past 90 days.

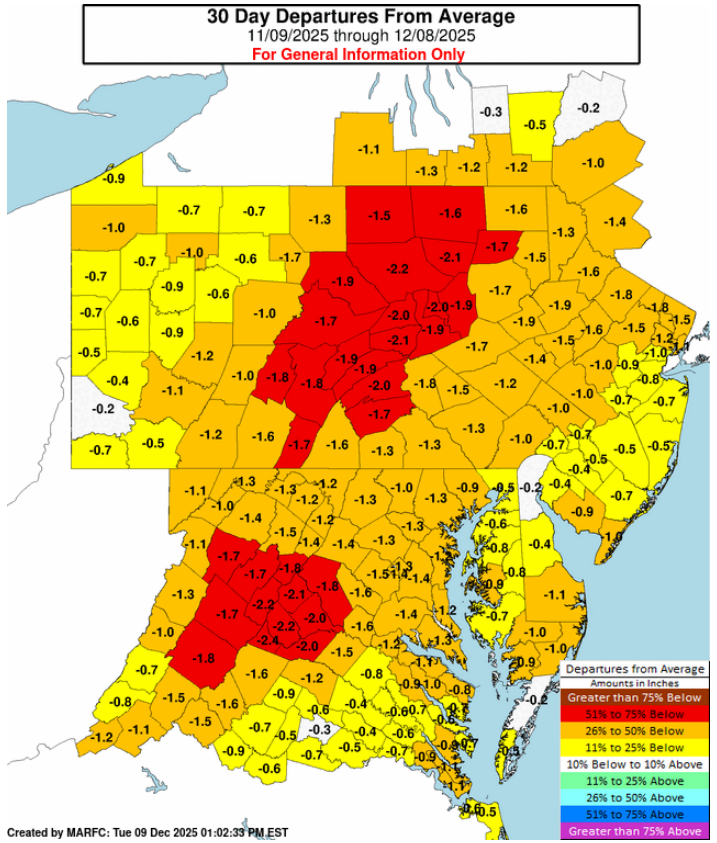
Year-to-date



90-day



30-day



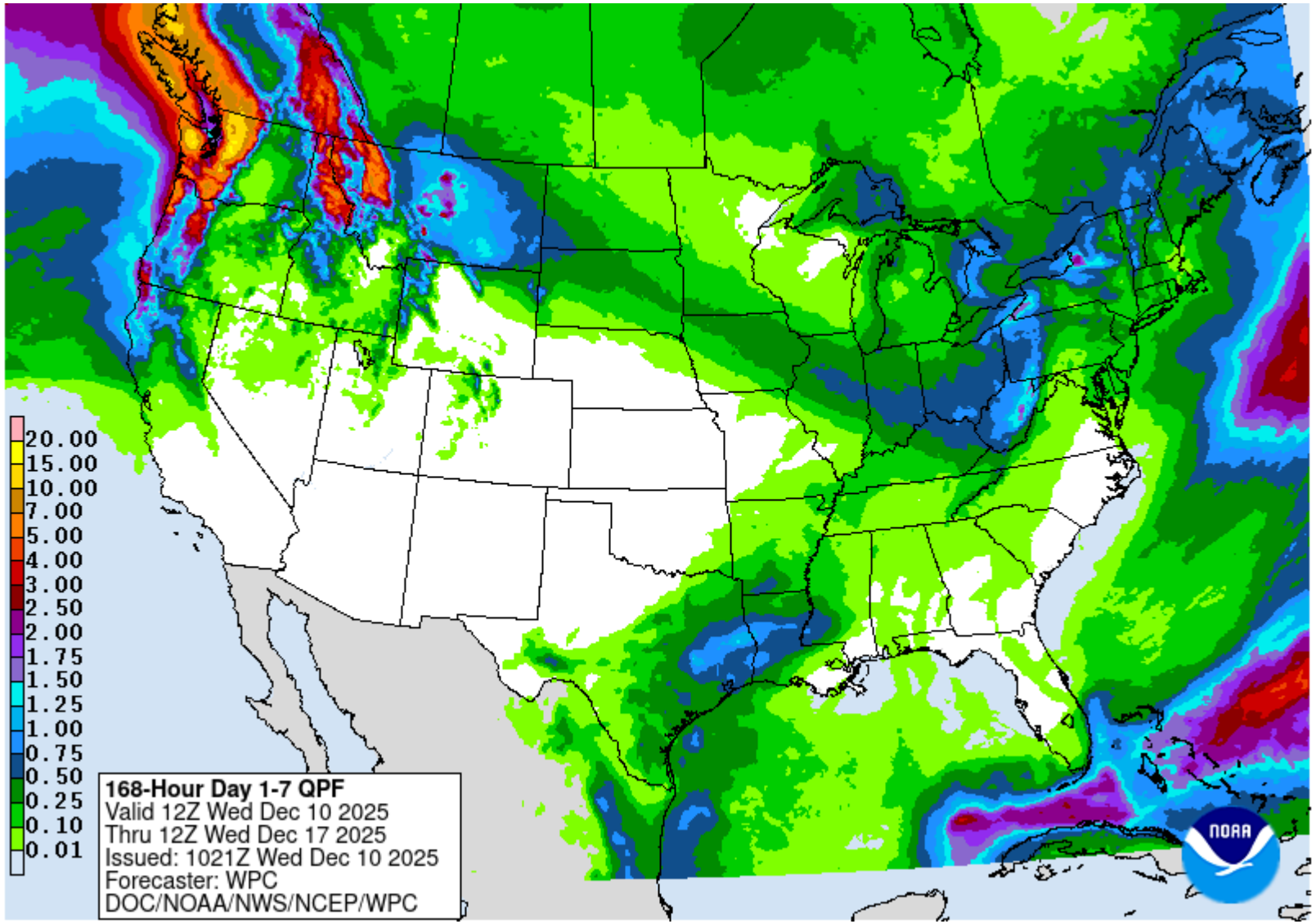
Departures from Average
Amounts in Inches
Greater than 75% Below
51% to 75% Below
26% to 50% Below
11% to 25% Below
10% Below to 10% Above
11% to 25% Above
26% to 50% Above
51% to 75% Above
Greater than 75% Above

Data Source: NOAA

Reference date: December 9, 2025

Seven-day Outlook

Precipitation is likely to fall as snow in the upper basin and held in snowpack



In early fall, predictions of 0.1 – 0.5 inches did not result in significant increases in flow

Data Source: CPC

Reference date: December 9, 2025

Streamflow

Most tributaries are below normal to much below normal reflecting low precipitation and drier than normal conditions.

Flow Conditions on average:

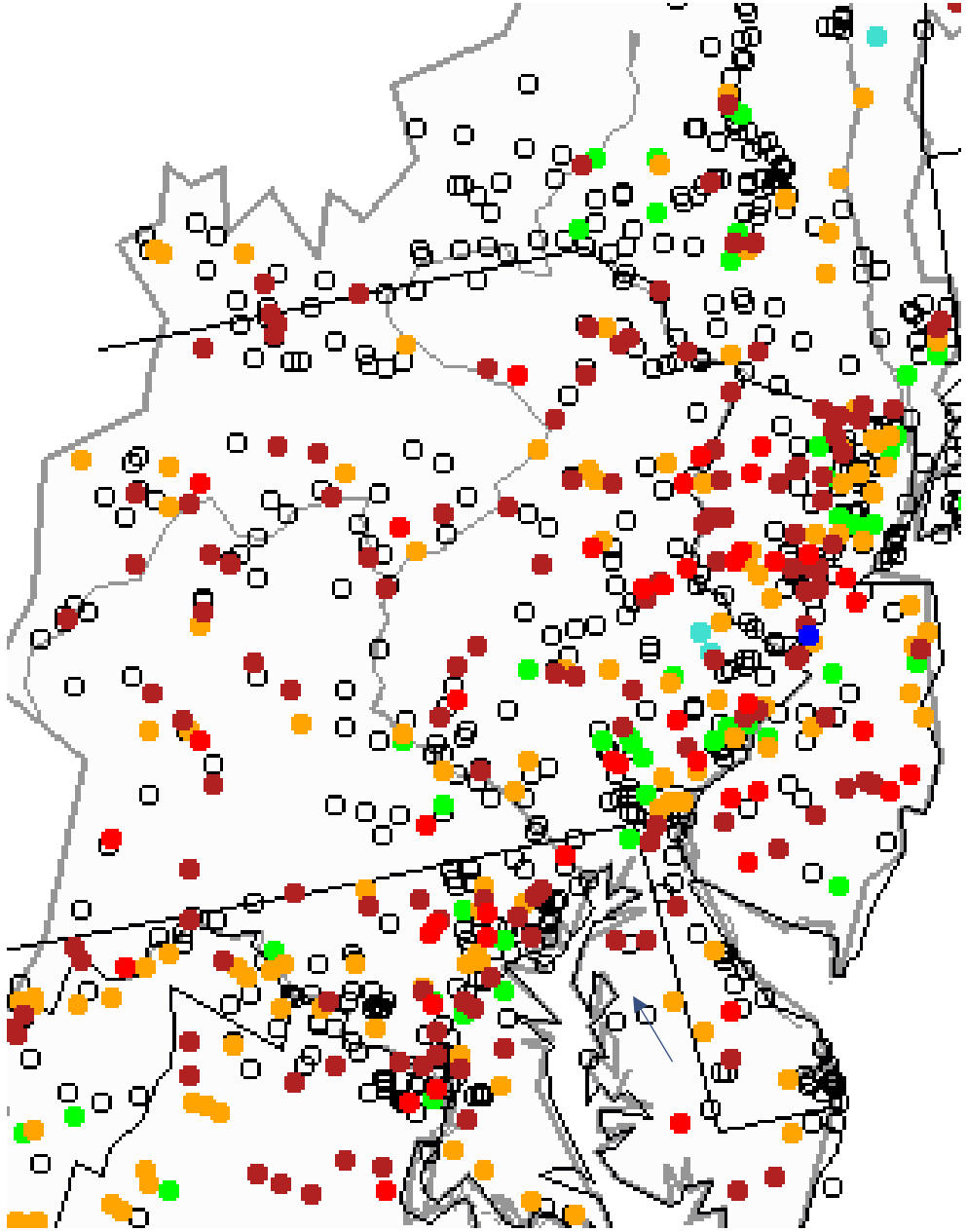
Upper Basin: Normal or below Normal

Central Basin: Below normal

Lower Basin: Below normal

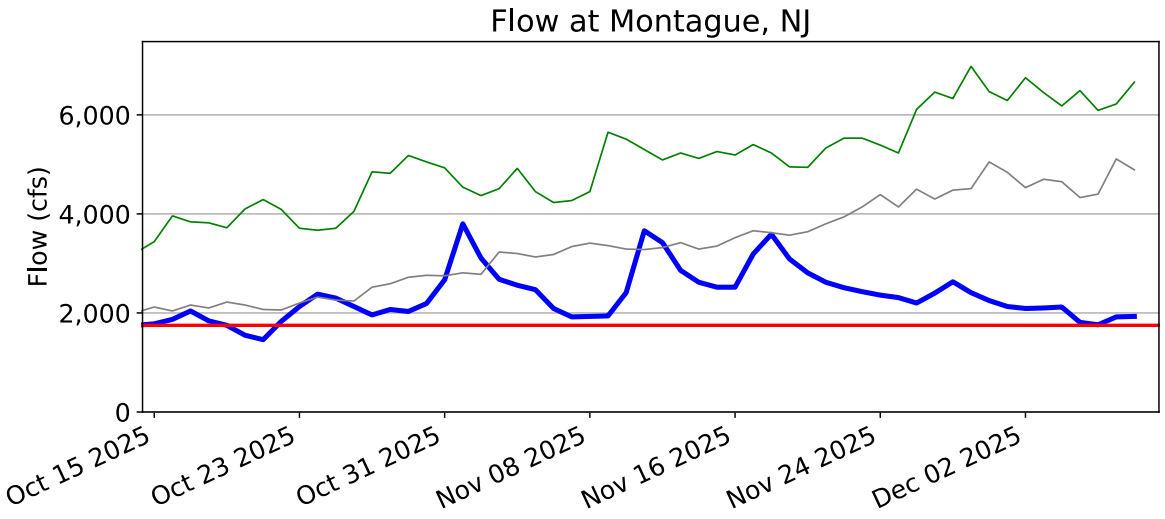
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

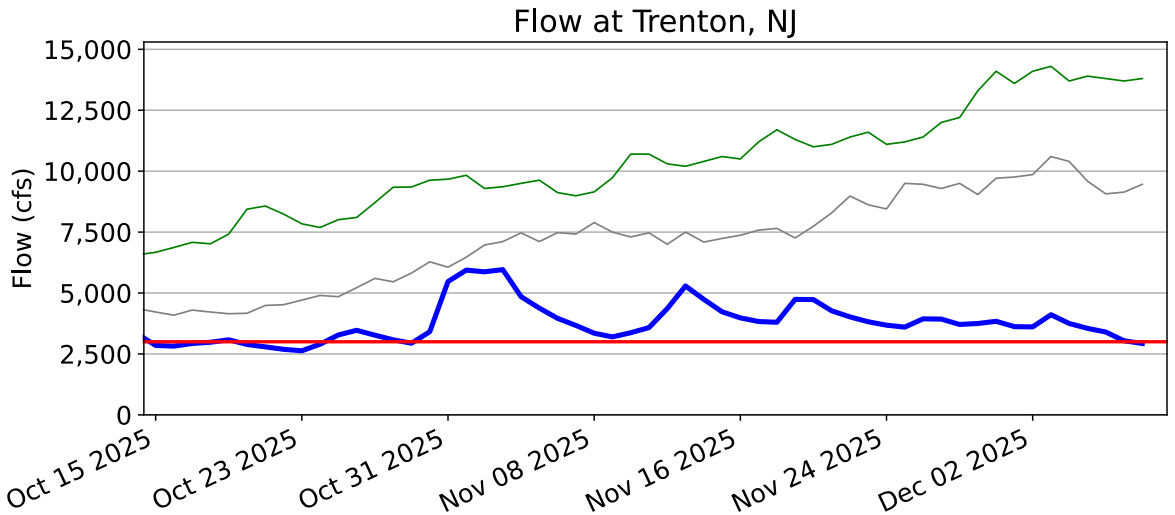
Data Source: USGS, Water Watch, https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?r=02&id=mv01d



Releases for Flow Objectives

Mainstem flows are below normal and close to the flow objectives



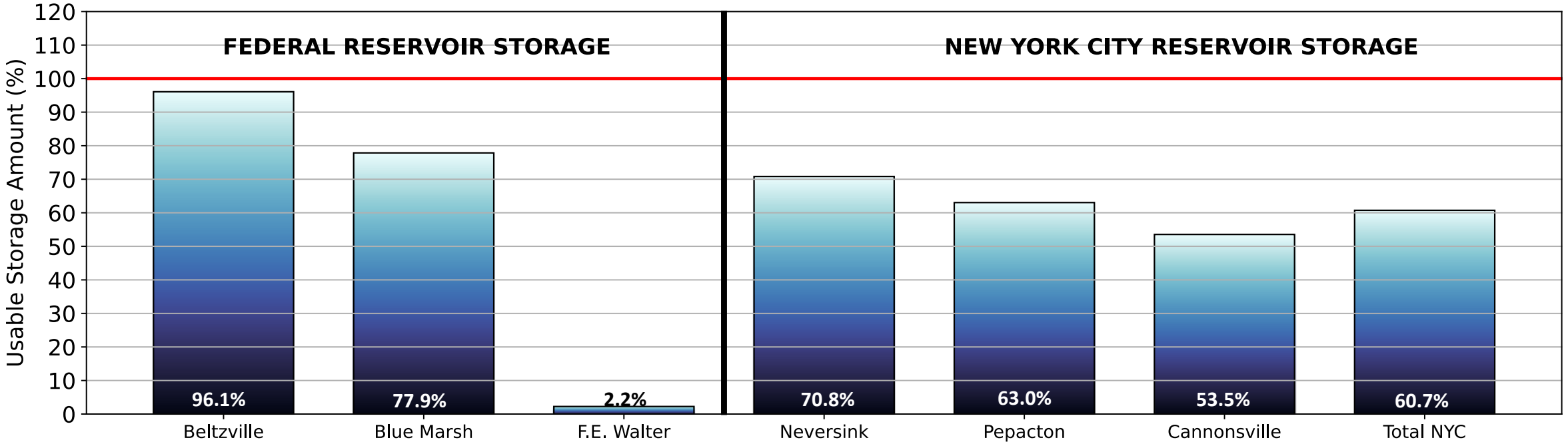


Map last updated: 8:30 am, December 9, 2025

Data Source: USGS

Reservoir Storage for Flow Management

The reservoirs are showing signs of the drier than normal precipitation pattern.



Releases from Lower and Upper Basin Reservoirs are used to meet flow objectives.

Reference date: December 9, 2025

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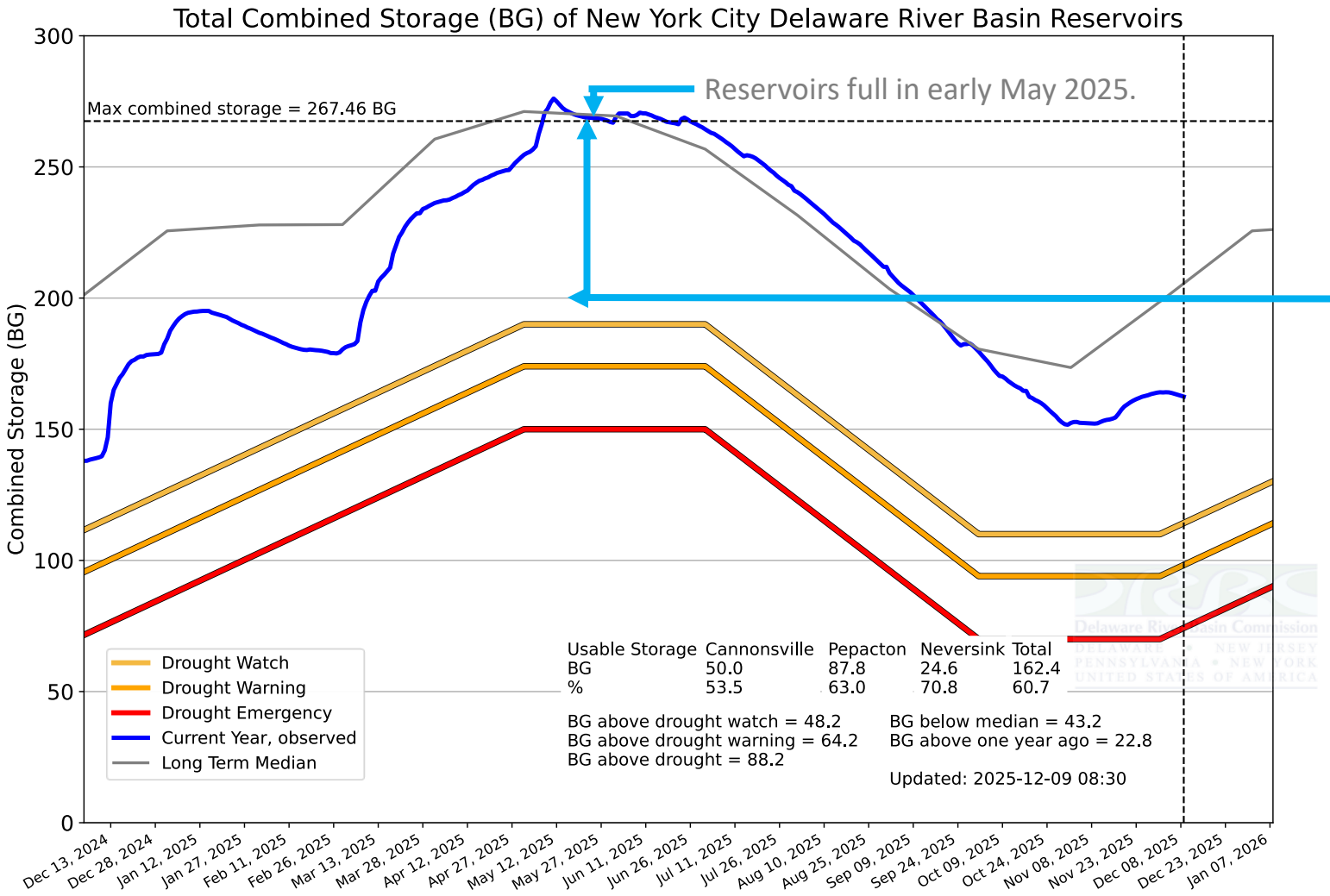
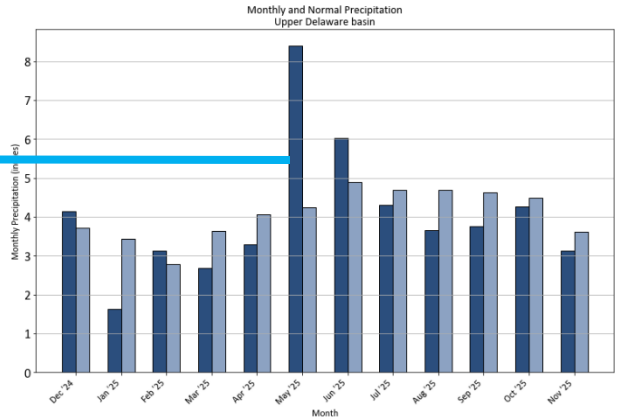
New York City Reservoir Storage

NYC combined storage reached full capacity in early May.





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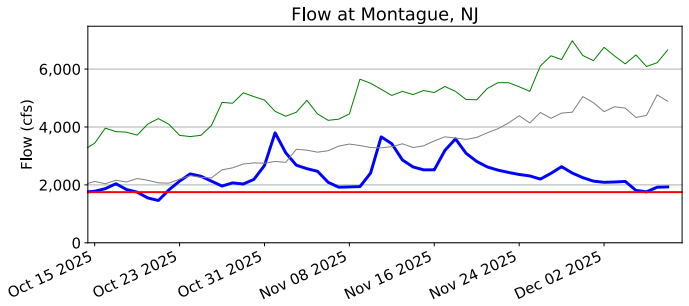
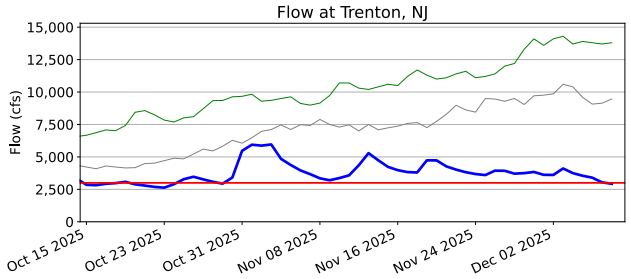
Mainstream Streamflow Conditions along Delaware River

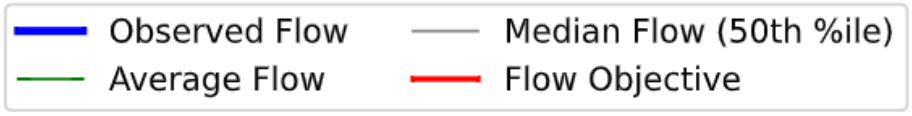
Reservoir releases were required to meet the flow objectives





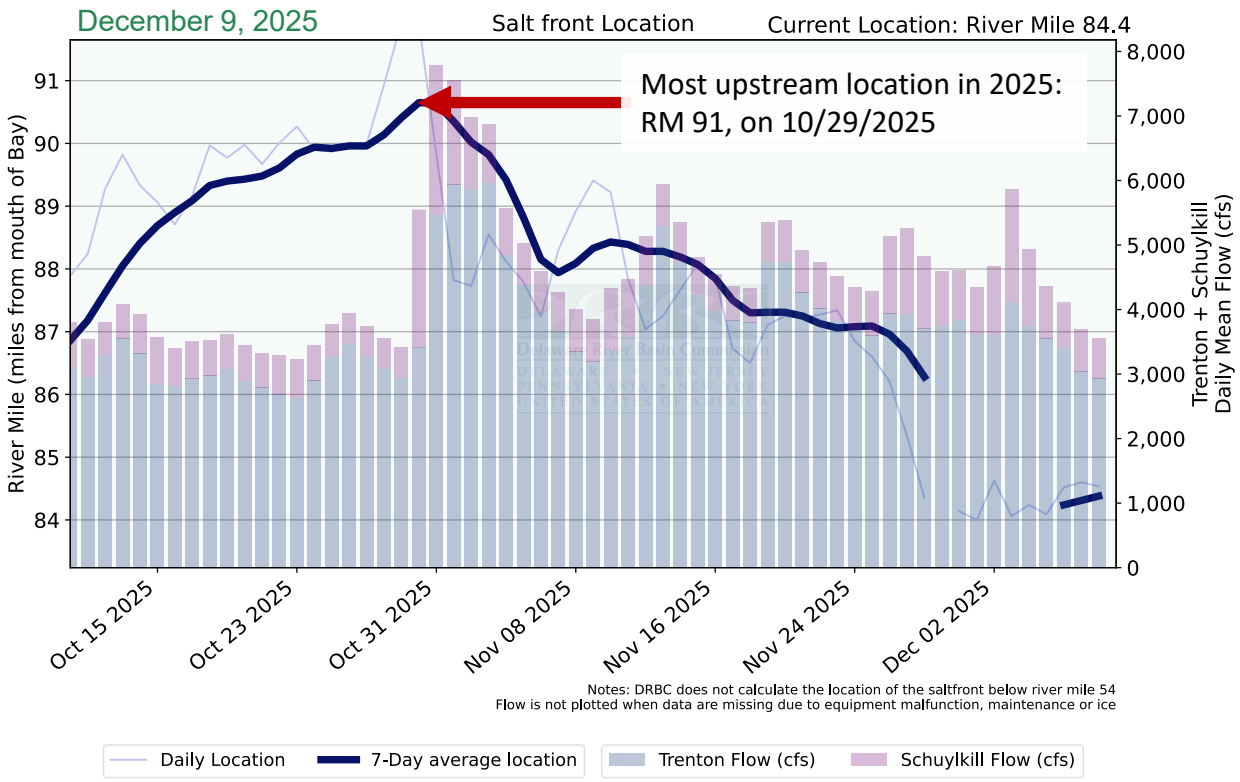
CUMULATIVE RELEASE FOR MONTAGUE AND TRENTON		
Source	**Montague**	**TEFO Bank****
Cumulative volume requested (includes today)		
Total water requested to-date (BG)	48.52	4.33
Total water requested to-date (cfs-days)	75056	6700
Days used	105	28
A cfs-day is equivalent to the volume of water released over a day. Also known as day-second-feet (dsf)		
Percent of Water Supply Storage remaining	na	29%
The TEFO Bank is water reserved for Trenton from water set aside for lower basin use.		

CUMULATIVE REQUESTED LOWER BASIN RELEASES AND REMAINING STORAGE			
Source	**Beltzville***	**Blue Marsh***	**TEFO Bank****
Cumulative volume requested (includes today)			
Total water requested to-date (BG)	0.97	1.84	4.33
Total water requested to-date (cfs-days)	1500	2850	6700
Days used	9	16	28
A cfs-day is equivalent to the volume of water released over a day. Also known as day-second-feet (dsf)			
Available Water (reconciled weekly)			
Available Water (BG)	9.27	3.17	1.76
Available Water (cfs-days)	14345	4898	2723
Available Water (acre-ft)	28446	9713	5401
Percent of Water Supply Storage remaining	98%	100%	29%
*Storage accounts for Beltzville and Blue Marsh are debited by the release; account volume, weighted overage/underage and evaporation; and credited with contract storage weighted inflow.** TEFO bank is fully debited and does not refill (resets annually on June 1 if not in drought). Storage cannot be greater than 100%			



Salt Front Location

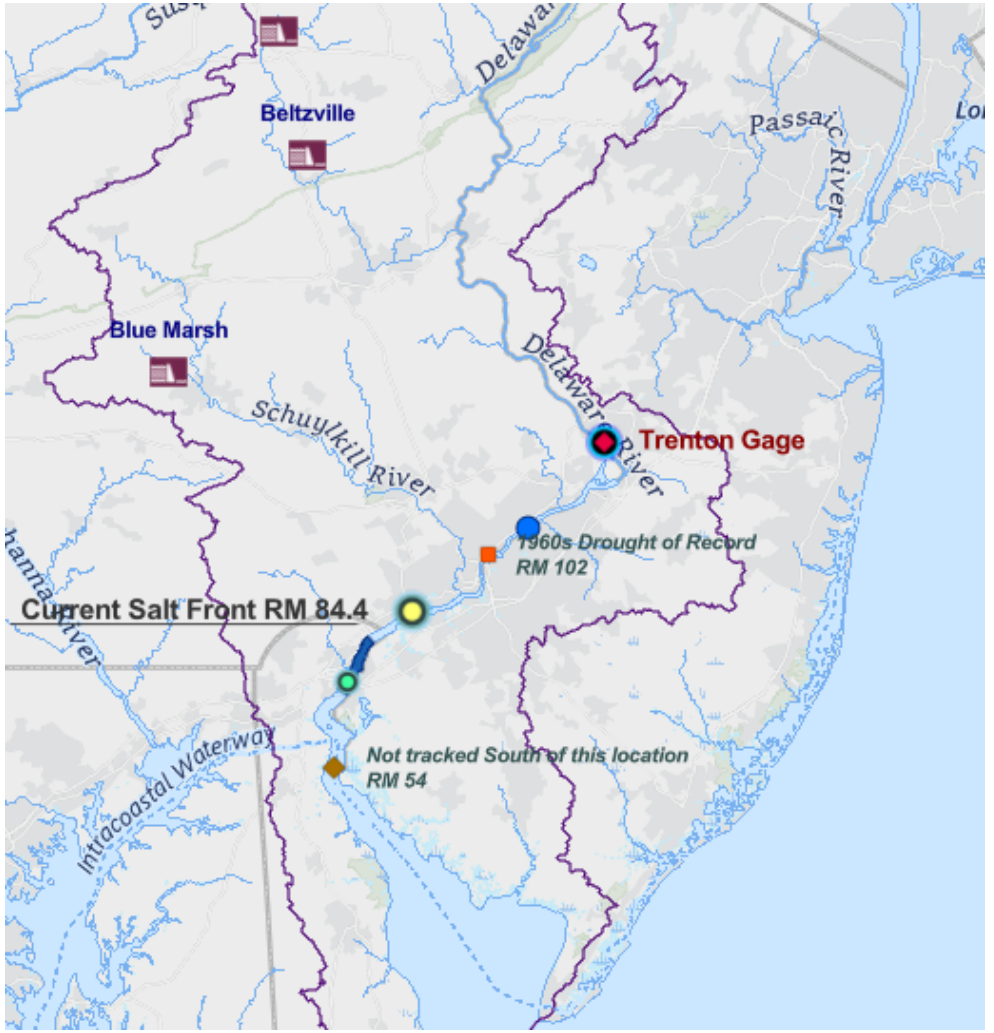
Salt front location is at RM 84.4, near Eddystone, PA, and was as far upstream as airport.



Updated: 2025-12-09 08:33

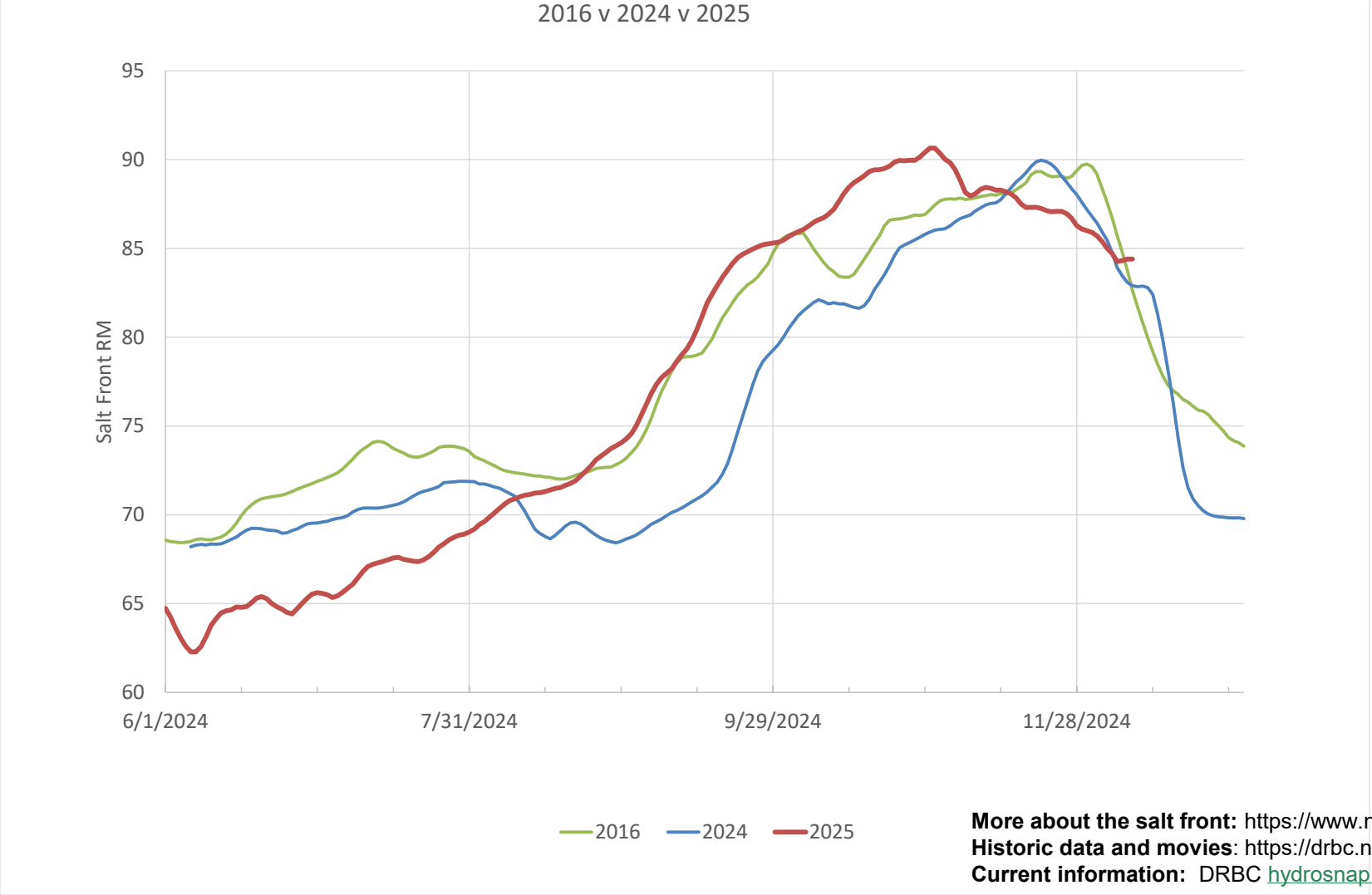
SALT FRONT (river mile)	This Week: NA	Last Week: NA	December Median: 69

More about the salt front: https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/flow/salt-front.html
Historic data and movies: https://drbc.net/Sky/hydro/saltfront.html#header1
Current information: DRBC hydrosnap.drbc.net;



Salt Front compared with other recent dry years

Salt front was farther upstream earlier in 2025

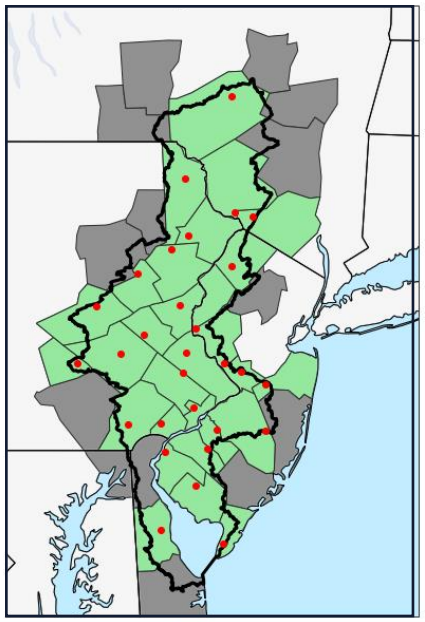


More about the salt front: https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/flow/salt-front.html
Historic data and movies: https://drbc.net/Sky/hydro/saltfront.html#header1
Current information: DRBC hydrosnap.drbc.net;

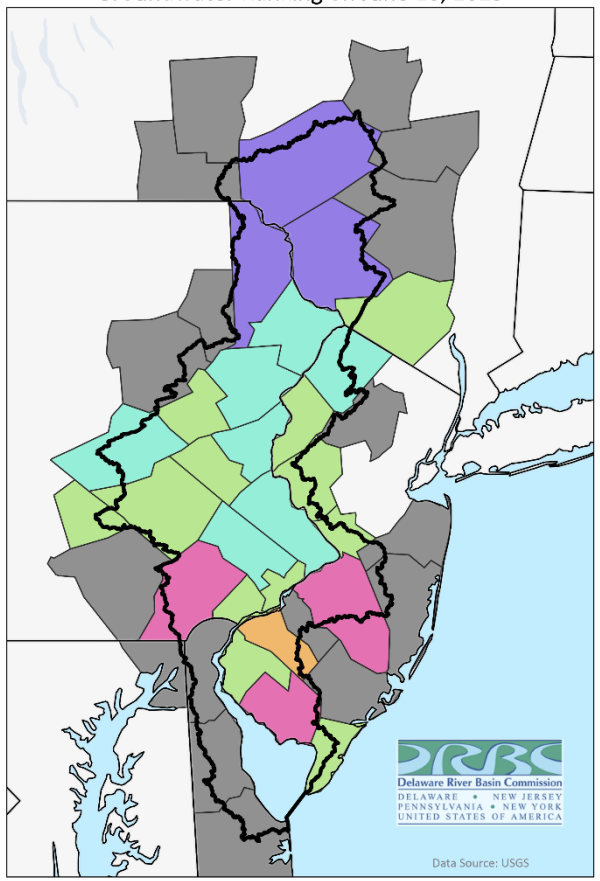
Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels have dropped below normal due to lack of recharge.

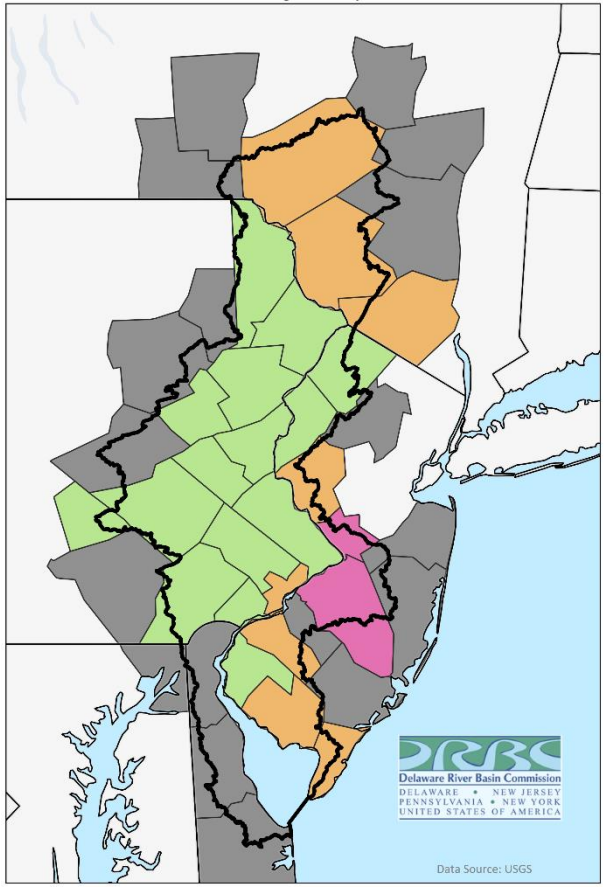
Reference Wells



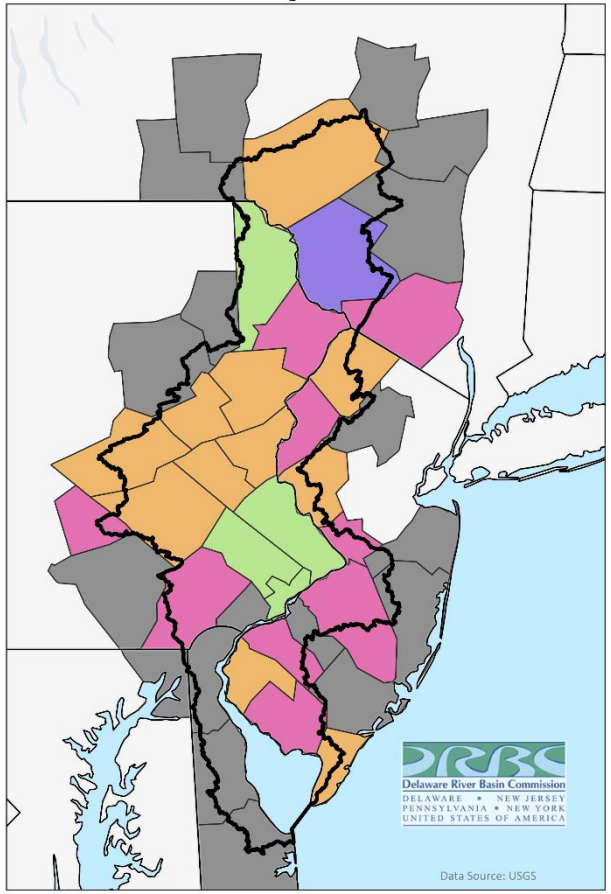
Groundwater Ranking on June 16, 2025



Groundwater Ranking on September 08, 2025



Groundwater Ranking on December 08, 2025



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Basin Boundary
Much Above Normal
Above Normal
Normal
Below Normal
Much Below Normal
Data unavailable

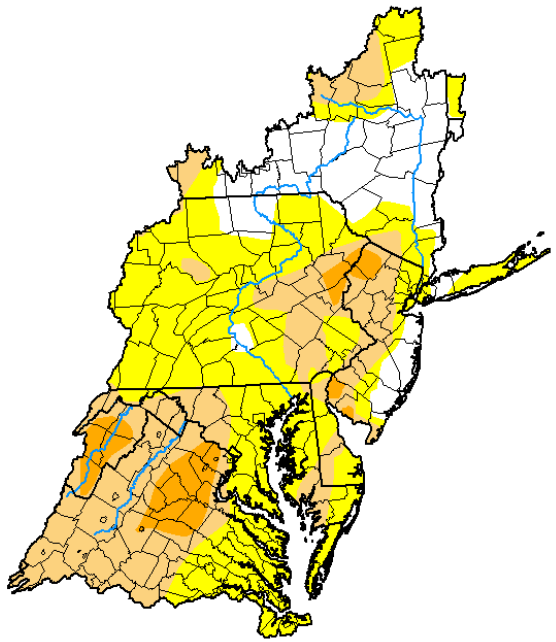
June 16th through December 8, 2025

Drought Monitor

Most of the Basin is in D0 (abnormally dry) or D1 (moderately dry)

U.S. Drought Monitor

Mid Atlantic Watershed



December 2, 2025

(Released Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	18.32	81.68	36.80	6.27	0.00	0.00
Last Week 11-25-2025	19.43	80.57	36.88	6.26	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-02-2025	44.33	55.67	4.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	21.86	78.14	47.78	20.53	2.84	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	20.58	79.42	32.56	4.67	0.58	0.00
One Year Ago 12-03-2024	0.94	99.06	79.26	38.90	6.28	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:

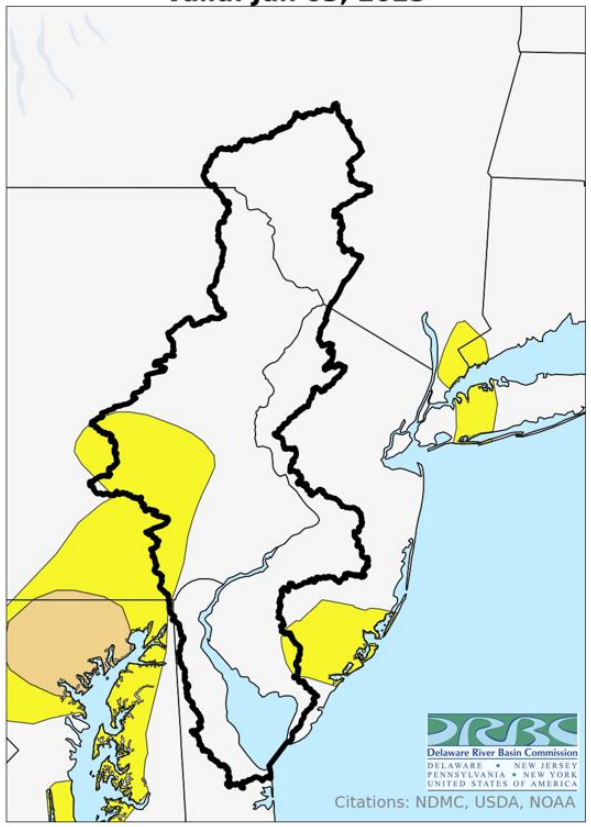
David Simeral

Western Regional Climate Center

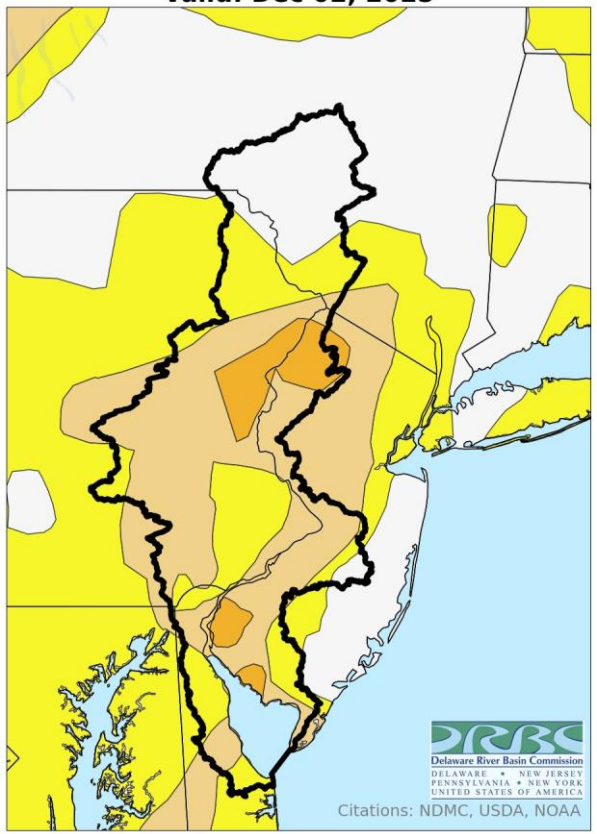
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Data Source: USDM

Drought Monitor
Valid: Jun 03, 2025



Drought Monitor
Valid: Dec 02, 2025



- Basin Boundary
- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought

Some of the data used to classify conditions include: precipitation, streamflow, soil moisture, agriculture, wildfire danger, reservoir storage, groundwater levels, among others.

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Drought Status

Each state has independent indicators and management measures for drought conditions

The basin states ended 2024 in drought conditions, returned to normal, and returned to drought conditions in fall 2025

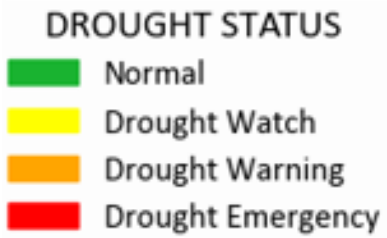
Drought Status :

DRB: Normal

NJ: Warning 12/5

NY: Watch 9/10

PA: Watch 12/8



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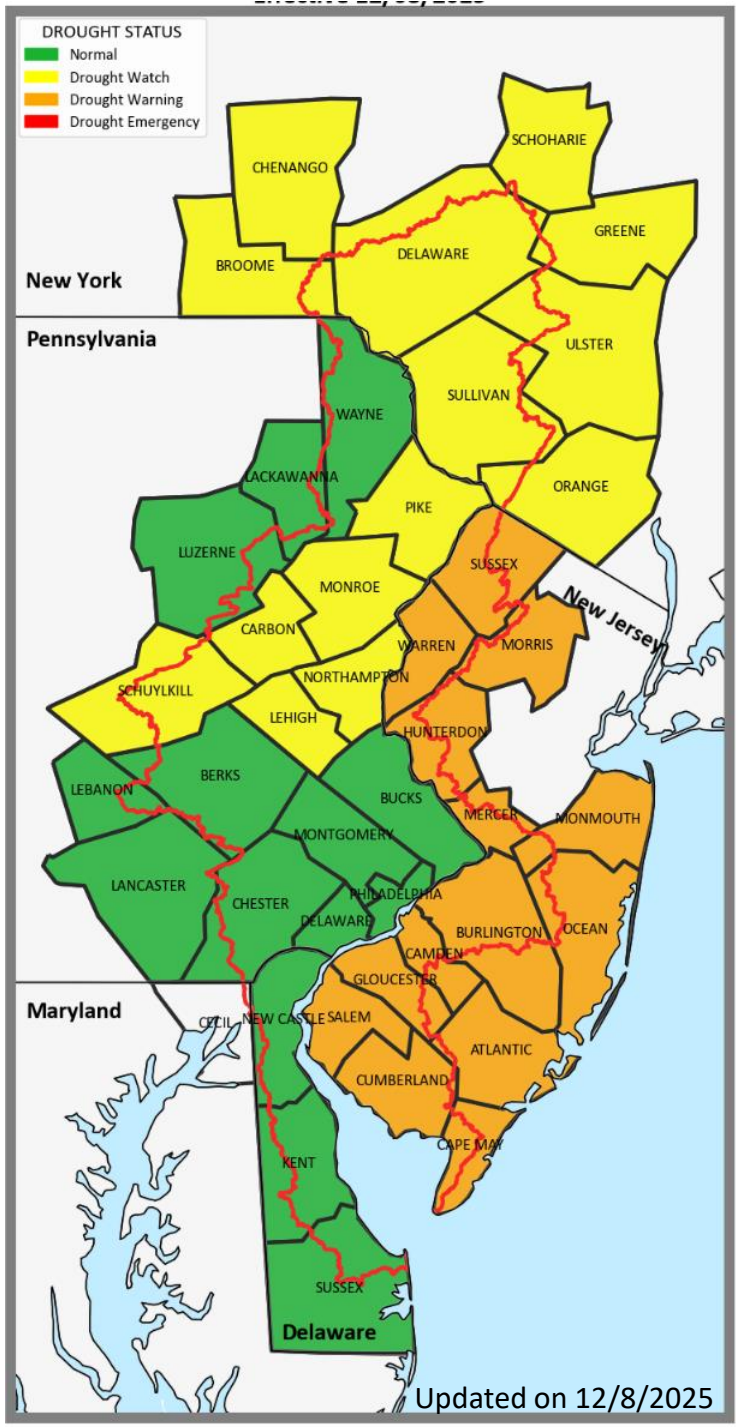
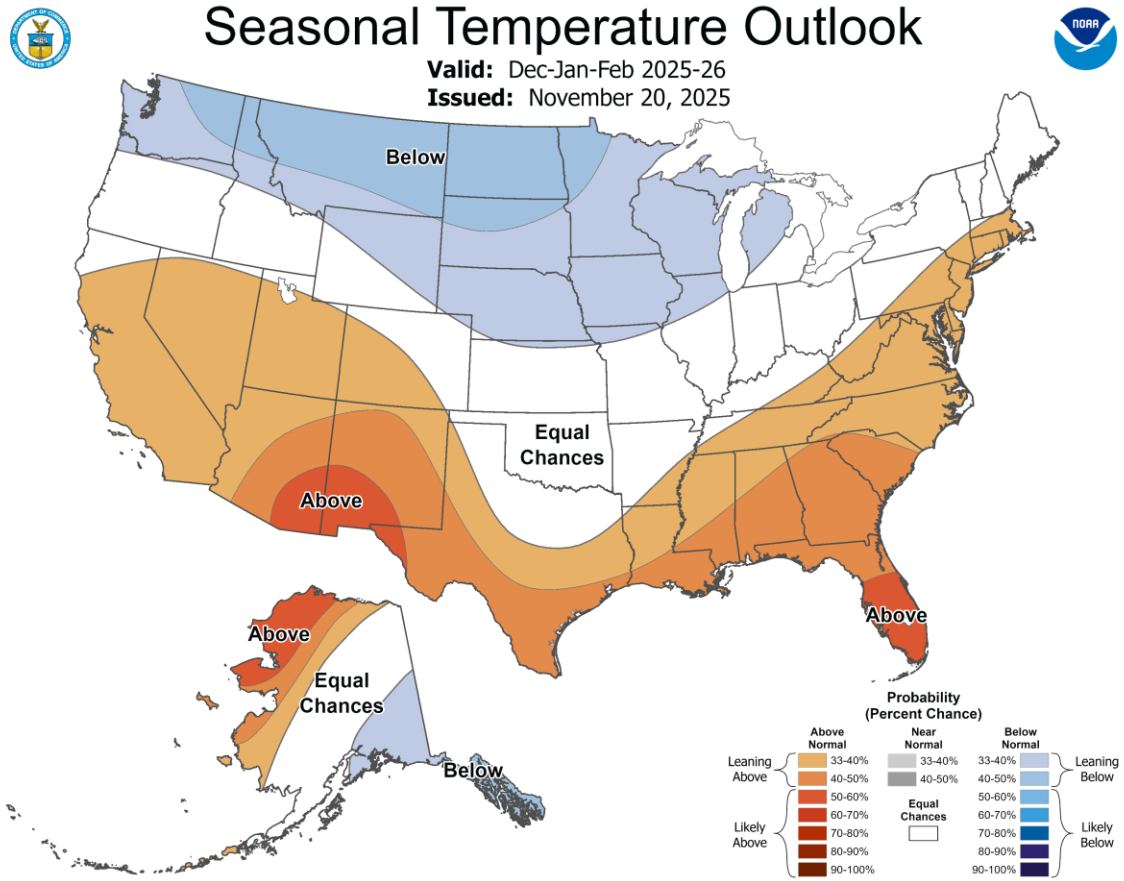
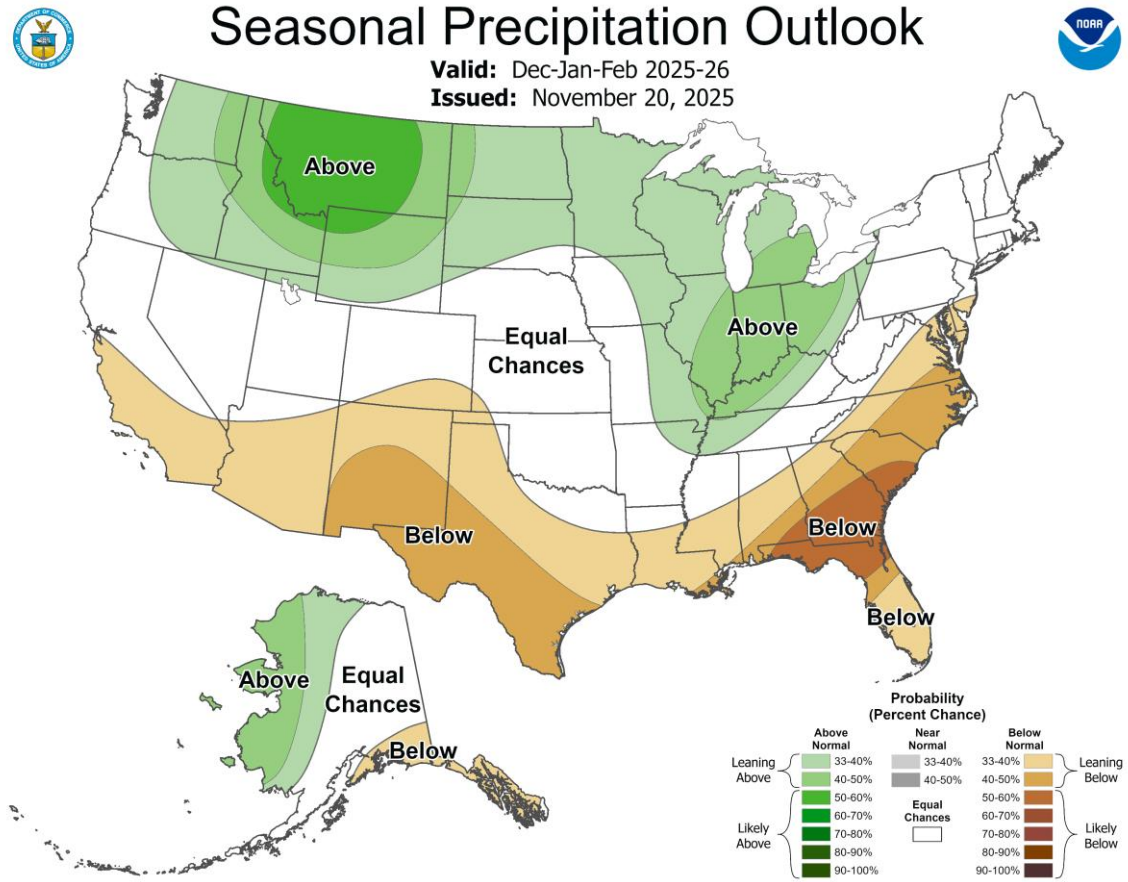
History of current and 2024-2025 drought conditions:
https://www.nj.gov/drbc/programs/flow/state-drought-links.html



NOAA Seasonal Outlook – Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26

Winter is expected to be warm with average precipitation.





Climate Prediction Center: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/.

Ice Jams

Ice jams typically form after heavy storms or refreezing after break-up

Trenton Ice Jam January 14, 2018

Hydrologic conditions summary

- Drought => Normal => Drought
- Salt front farthest upstream since the 1960s
- NOAA Three-month outlook – warm and dry winter
- All forecasts are subject to change

Wishing you health and happiness for the New Year!

Delaware River Basin Commission
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