Forecaster's Comments

Tuesday, December 12, 2017 - 01:29 PM

Weather Conditions

No significant precipitation fell in Alberta over the past few days, and none is expected before the weekend. Clear skies are expected in the coming days.

Temperatures are expected to cool, but remain above average this week. Daily high temperatures are forecasted to remain above zero for most of the province, other than the far north.

Alberta Environment and Parks is in close contact with weather forecasting agencies, including Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Environment Canada. Detailed weather forecasts and current weather information are available from:

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry:
http://wildfire.alberta.ca/wildfire-status/fire-weather/forecasts-observations/default.aspx

Environment Canada:
http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/canada_e.html

River Conditions

The last Peace River ice front was located on Sunday at km 640. With the continued warm weather, the advance of the ice front has stalled and it has begun to melt back downstream. Peace River Ice Observation Reports can be viewed on the Alberta River Basins webpage.

The continuing above seasonal temperatures may impact existing ice covers. Extra care is cautioned for anyone taking part in activities near Alberta's waterways.

Ice covers are in place on many rivers across the province. Newly formed ice covers are not very strong and travelling on them is not recommended. Normal ice processes and temperature changes can destabilize ice covers and cause rapid changes in water levels. Anyone taking part in activities near rivers should be aware of changing conditions.

Ice affects watercourses, making streamflow measurements inaccurate. As a result, many streamflow stations are shut down for the winter season and will resume operation in the spring. For those stations remaining active through the winter, please note that only water level data will be available online.

River conditions across the province will continue to be monitored and advisories will be issued as required.

Preliminary Flow Data

Real-time precipitation and river data are available at:
http://environment.alberta.ca/apps/basins/default.aspx

All flow data posted on the AEP website is provisional and preliminary. Environment Canada's Water Survey of Canada is the official owner of this information and as such it is part of their mandate to validate the flow values and publish the finalized maximum instantaneous peak discharge and daily discharge values for all locations in Canada on their website - http://www.ec.gc.ca/rhc-wsc/default.asp . The validation of this data does not commence until the end of each calendar year.

Extreme caution should be taken when referring to the data posted to the AEP website - there is a disclaimer at the top of each data table outlining the need for caution. This is particularly true for large flow events when the gauge is affected by debris, damage, sediment in the river, re-alignment of the main river channel and over bank flow which cannot be measured.

Flood Hazard Identification Program

The potential for flooding exists along all streams and lakes in Alberta.

Flooding can cause damage to property, hardship to people and in extreme events, loss of life. To assist Albertans in mitigating potential flood losses, Alberta Environment and Parks manages the production of flood hazard studies and mapping under the provincial Flood Hazard Identification Program.

Flood Hazard Mapping - Explore final flood hazard maps using GIS.

Flood Hazard Studies - Learn about final flood hazards in your community.

Draft Flood Hazard Studies - Review draft flood hazard studies.

Water Supply Report

Water Supply Outlooks are published incrementally as new data analyses are available. The most recent Water Supply

Outlook is now available at:
http://www.environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/WaterSupply/index.html

Precipitation data and maps for the Water Supply Report are published monthly at:
http://www.environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/reports/index.html