

**Environmental Management
Water Management Operations
River Engineering Team**

Date of Issue: April 14, 2007

**2007-Athabasca River at Fort McMurray
Breakup Status Report No. 3**

On the afternoon of Friday April 13, 2007 an observation flight was conducted by Alberta Environment. The flight proceeded from Edmonton to Mayerthorpe to observe the Paddle River. The Paddle River was then followed to its confluence with the Pembina River. The Pembina River was followed to its confluence with the Athabasca River. The Athabasca River was followed past Fort McMurray to the Suncor Plant.

Paddle River

The Paddle River was observed to have either large open areas with the occasional small ice jam or border flow with deteriorating but intact river ice. Fields in this basin remain snow covered.

Pembina River

The Pembina River was observed to typically have deteriorating but intact river ice with some border flow. The mouth of the Pembina River was observed to have a solid ice cover. Fields in this basin remain snow covered.

Athabasca River

No significant ice movement was observed anywhere along the Athabasca River. Small open leads were typically observed along most reaches of the Athabasca River. The basin remains snow covered. Notable observations include:

- 27 km open lead has developed downstream of Alpac.
- La Biche River is open.
- Between Pelican Rapids and Joli Fou Rapids, numerous and extended open leads were observed. Flow on top of ice was also noted in this reach.
- House River confluence remains ice covered.
- Between Grand Rapids and Fort McMurray small open leads were developing, typically at the rapids.
- Clearwater River confluence remains ice covered.

The next observation flight is scheduled for Saturday April 14 from Ft. McMurray.

The most current information with interactive maps and photos is posted on the web site at <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/basins/BasinForm.cfm> under the heading of River Ice Reports.