

2014 – 2015 Peace River Report No. 29

A ground observation on March 26 located the ice front at approximately km 366 (30 km upstream of the Highway 2 bridge in the Town of Peace River) at 10:20 MST. Since Tuesday, March 24, the ice front has been receding at a rate of approximately 7 km/day. Warmer temperatures in the forecast and the potential for rainfall may cause this rate of recession to increase over the next few days. If conditions remain consistent, the ice front could recede through the Town of Peace River in 4 to 6 days. The snowfall from last week continues to melt, and no significant increases in water levels have been observed across the Peace River basin.

Given the above seasonal temperatures this spring, the breakup of the ice covers on the Peace and Smoky River is occurring approximately 2 weeks ahead of average.

Ground observations on the Little Smoky River and Smoky River show that thermal deterioration of the ice covers is well underway, and that ice covers are melting in place. Water levels remain low, and there is minimal snow left to generate runoff and force ice movement.

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, and BC Hydro are in contact regarding river ice conditions and operation of the BC Hydro Peace River facilities.

Observation Details

- March 24, 2015 – Ground observations

Smoky and Little Smoky Rivers

Little change since March 23 ground observations:

- Observations at the Hwy 49 bridge over the Smoky River at Watino (km 65) showed some ice pieces pushed up onto the existing ice cover, and open leads present. Remaining ice appear to be intact and water levels remain low.
 - Observations at the Hwy 744 (km 24.5) over the Little Smoky River showed a localized breakup of the ice cover, with deteriorated brash ice melting in place. Remaining ice was dark in color.
 - Observations at the Hwy 49 bridge (km 60.5) over the Little Smoky Rivers showed a deteriorated ice cover, with water ponded on the ice surface. Open leads present.
- March 26, 2015
 - A ground observation from the end of the Shaftesbury Trail at 10:20 MST located the ice front at km 366 (30 km upstream of the Town of Peace River)
 - The intact ice downstream of the ice front appears to be deteriorating, and open leads were located at km 367 and 368.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development,
Communications Division

780-427-8636

For toll-free access outside Edmonton, please dial 780-310-0000.

Photo #1: Looking upstream (east) from the Hwy 49 bridge across the Little Smoky River (km 60.5). March 24, 2015.



Photo #2: Looking downstream from the Hwy 49 bridge across the Smoky River (km 64). March 24, 2015.



Photo 3: Ice front location on the Peace River (km 366) as seen from the Shaftesbury Trail. Flow is from right to left. March 26, 2015.



Photo 4: Open lead on the Peace River downstream of the ice front (km 368) as seen from the Shaftesbury Trail. Flow is from left to right. March 26, 2015.



Temperature Forecast

The following table contains Environment Canada's observed and forecasted daily maximum and minimum temperatures through to Wednesday, April 1st.

Day	Date	Location		
		High Level	Peace River	Fort St. John
Yesterday	25 March	2.2/-14.8	3.7/-2.6	3.6/-4.7
Today	26 March	3	10	11
Friday	27 March	10/-6	10/1	8/4
Saturday	28 March	7/-3	6/1	7/-1
Sunday	29 March	3/-9	9/-3	8/-2
Monday	30 March	6/-5	7/-2	6/-3
Tuesday	31 March	5/-5	9/-2	7/-2
Wednesday	1 April	3/-8	9/-4	6/-4
Average Max/Min for 26 March		2 / -12	4 / -8	4 / -6

The next observation report is expected to be posted on or before March 30th.

Observed Peace River Ice Front Locations 2014-2015

