

For Immediate Release: September 19, 2006

## **August ends with 10<sup>th</sup> lowest natural runoff volume on record**

Natural runoff volumes recorded during August were generally much below average, ranking among the ten lowest on record in most areas. Total natural runoff volumes so far this year (March through August 2006) rank between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> lowest on record in most locations. Natural runoff volumes for the year have been much below average at Edmonton and the Brazeau Reservoir, and below to much below average in the Red Deer and Bow River basins. Volumes are below average in the Milk River basin, below average to average in the Oldman River basin and average into the Bighorn and Spray reservoirs.

The final streamflow volume forecasts for this year were produced in August, as volumes after September 1 represent a minor portion of yearly totals. A year in review report will be published next month. Check our [Forecaster's Comments](#) throughout the month for updated information regarding runoff conditions.

Between September 13 and 15, significant precipitation with a mix of rain and snow affected the upper basins in south and central Alberta. In the Bow and North Saskatchewan River basins, precipitation totals already met or exceeded normal precipitation totals for September, except in the Lake Louise area where precipitation has been much below normal. In the Red Deer River basin, precipitation totals already significantly exceeded normal precipitation totals for September.

### ***Other Highlights (As of September 1):***

- Precipitation during August was generally much below normal in northwestern and southern Alberta and below normal to normal in the remainder of the province, except for scattered small areas which recorded above to much above normal precipitation.
- Below normal summer precipitation (May 1 to August 31) was recorded in mountain and foothill areas, in most of central Alberta and north of Fort Chipewyan. Normal precipitation was recorded in southern plains and normal to above normal precipitation was recorded in northern Alberta.
- Water storage in major irrigation reservoirs in the Oldman River basin is normal, while Glennifer Lake in the Red Deer River basin is above normal.
- Water storage varies widely from below normal to above normal in the major hydroelectric and irrigation reservoirs of the Bow River basin, but in most cases is similar to last year at this time.
- Water storage in the North Saskatchewan is currently below average at the Brazeau Reservoir and average at the Bighorn Reservoir.