



Water Supply Outlook Overview

For Immediate Release: August 13, 2002

Precipitation needed to improve overall water supply outlook for most of Alberta

Alberta Environment reports significant precipitation is needed to improve the overall water supply outlook for Northern and Central Alberta. Most areas north of Calgary are extremely dry as a result of several consecutive months of much-below-normal precipitation. Streams in the prairie region north of Calgary remain very low and are beginning to approach historical minimum values.

Despite below-normal precipitation in July, the water supply situation in Southern Alberta is much better as a result of record high precipitation in June. Stream levels have returned to near average values after being much-above-average for the month of June and early July.

Other highlights of August's water supply outlook include:

- Water storage levels in the major irrigation reservoirs in the Oldman and Red Deer River basins are above-normal as of August 1, 2002, with the exception of Keho, Ridge, Forty Mile and Chin Reservoirs, which are normal.
- Water storage in the major hydroelectric reservoirs in the Bow and North Saskatchewan River basins are normal, with the exception of Lake Newell, Crawling Valley Reservoir, Lower Kananaskis Lake and Lake Abraham, which are above-normal.
- Recorded natural runoff volumes approached the highest on record in the Oldman and Milk River basins in March to July 2002 as a result of a very wet spring and early summer.
- Natural runoff volumes are forecast to remain much-above-average for the Oldman and Milk River basins until September 2002. Volumes of natural runoff are forecast to be above-average for the Elbow and Highwood Rivers, average for the Bow River basin, below-average in the North Saskatchewan River basin and much-below-average for the Red Deer River basin.

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