



Water Supply Outlook Overview

For Immediate Release: December 8, 2004

November precipitation much below normal, water storage normal

Most regions in Alberta recorded much below normal precipitation totals during November, with the area from Lloydminster to Medicine Hat recording little or no precipitation.

As of December 1, 2004, mountain snowpacks in the Oldman, Bow, and Red Deer River basins were below average for this time of year, generally ranking among the sixth to tenth lowest in the past 15 to 20 years. Accumulations at this time of year typically account for only one-fifth of the season's total.

Plains snowpack was minimal to non-existent in southern and central Alberta until an early December snowfall resulted in snow cover in most of these areas.

Soil moisture conditions, as measured by Alberta Agriculture on October 31, 2004, generally range from normal to much above normal in western and southern areas of the province, but below to much below normal in the High Level and Edson areas and in east central Alberta.

Other Highlights of the December Water Supply Outlook include:

- As of December 1, 2004, water storage in major irrigation reservoirs in the Oldman River basin is above normal, but normal in the Waterton Reservoir. Water storage in the basin is greater than at this time last year.
- Water storage in the Dickson reservoir in the Red Deer River basin is above normal for this time of year, slightly greater than at this time last year.
- As of December 1, 2004, water storage is normal in the major hydroelectric and irrigation reservoirs of the Bow River basin, except above normal at Lake Minnewanka. Water storage in the basin is similar to or greater than at this time last year.
- Water storage levels in the North Saskatchewan River basin are above average at the Brazeau Reservoir and at Lake Abraham, both higher than at this time last year.

- 30 -

Media Contact:
Communications Division, Alberta Environment
Phone: (780) 427-6267