



Water Supply Outlook Overview

For Immediate Release: July 15, 2002

Precipitation needed to assist with poor soil moisture, low water levels

Alberta Environment forecasters say 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. In fact, some areas have received record low precipitation. As a result, streams in the prairie region north of Calgary remain very low and are beginning to approach historical minimum values.

In Southern Alberta, however, the water supply forecast continues to improve as a result of significant precipitation in June. A major storm system brought record high precipitation to some areas, and caused some minor flooding.

Other highlights of July's water supply outlook include:

- In the Oldman and Milk River basins, the March to June recorded natural runoff volumes are near the highest on record as a result of a very wet spring and early summer.
- Much-above-average natural runoff volumes as of July 1, 2002 are forecast for the Oldman and Milk River basins for the remainder of the forecast period (July to September, 2002).
- Natural runoff volumes are forecast to be above-average for the Elbow and Highwood Rivers, average for the Bow River basin and below-average for the Red Deer and North Saskatchewan River basins.
- As of July 1, 2002, water storage levels in the major irrigation reservoirs in the Oldman and Red Deer River basins are above-normal, with the exception of Ridge and Chin Reservoirs, which are normal, and Forty Mile Reservoir, which is below-normal for this time of the year.
- Water storage in the major hydroelectric reservoirs in the Bow and North Saskatchewan River basins are normal for this time of the season except for Lake Newell, Lake McGregor, Lower Kananaskis Lake, Lake Minnewanka and Lake Abraham, which are above-normal.

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