



Water Supply Outlook Overview

For Immediate Release: July 8, 2003

Runoff volumes below-average for Oldman, Milk and Bow River; reservoirs normal

Runoff volumes have been below-average for March through June 2003 in the Oldman and Milk River basins, below-average to average in the Bow River basin, and average to above-average in the North Saskatchewan and Red Deer River basins. Mountain snowmelt is essentially complete for this year, especially in southern Alberta.

Below-average runoff volumes are forecast for July through September 2003 in the Oldman, Milk, Bow, and North Saskatchewan River basins. Average to above-average runoff volumes are forecast for the Red Deer River basin.

As of July 1, 2003, water storage in major irrigation reservoirs in the Oldman River basin is normal, except for the Milk River Ridge Reservoir, which is above-normal. Water storage in the major reservoir of the Red Deer River basin is normal for this time of year.

Water storage is normal to above-normal as of July 1, 2003 in the major hydroelectric and irrigation reservoirs of the Bow River basin, except in the Barrier and Spray Reservoirs which are below-normal. Storage levels in the North Saskatchewan River basin are below-normal at the Brazeau Reservoir and above-normal at the Bighorn Reservoir. Water storage in the Athabasca River basin at the South Heart Reservoir is below-normal.

Other highlights of the July Water Supply Outlook include:

- Precipitation totals for June were generally normal to above-normal in the upper Peace and lower Athabasca River basins, and in southeastern Alberta. Precipitation elsewhere in the province was generally below-normal to much-below-normal, however numerous thunderstorms brought near-normal precipitation totals to scattered areas of the province.
- So far, precipitation during the summer period (May and June) has been generally below-normal in the western half of Alberta, and normal to above-normal in the eastern half of Alberta.

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