

For Immediate Release: July 16, 2004

June rain continues to improve Alberta's water supply

June precipitation was generally normal in the mountains and foothills of Alberta and in the Whitecourt and Lloydminster areas. Much above normal precipitation was recorded during June in the Grande Prairie, Calgary, Pincher Creek and Drumheller regions. Precipitation in the remainder of the plains has been generally below normal to normal in the south, and much below normal in central and northern areas. Precipitation during July has so far been very good in many areas of the province, and will be addressed in next month's Outlook.

Summer (May 1 to June 30, 2004) precipitation has generally ranged from normal to much above normal in the mountains and foothills of the province, therefore natural runoff forecasts have improved in many locations. As of the beginning of this month, July through September 2004 volumes are forecast to be below average to average in the Red Deer and Bow River basins, below average in the Milk River basin, and below average to much below average in the Oldman and North Saskatchewan River basins.

Natural runoff volumes recorded March through June 2004 have generally ranged from below average to much below average in the Oldman, Bow, Red Deer and North Saskatchewan River basins, and were much below average in the Milk River basin.

Other Highlights (As of July 1, 2004):

- As of July 1, 2004, water storage in major irrigation reservoirs in the Oldman River basin is generally average to above average.
- Water storage is average to above average in the major hydroelectric and irrigation reservoirs of the Bow River basin, except in the Spray Lake and Upper Kananaskis Lake reservoirs, which are below average.
- Water storage levels in the North Saskatchewan and Red Deer River basins are currently above average at Lake Abraham and Glennifer Lake, and average at the Brazeau Reservoir.

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