



Water Supply Outlook Overview

For Immediate Release: November 8, 2002

Significant Precipitation Needed Across Much of Alberta

Alberta Environment reports significant precipitation is needed to improve the overall water supply outlook. Most areas north of Calgary are extremely dry as a result of several consecutive months of much-below-normal precipitation.

Fall (September and October) precipitation was below-normal to much-below-normal in most of the province north of Calgary. Above-normal to much-above-normal precipitation fell south of Calgary and in the Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Fort Chipewyan areas.

Other highlights of November's Water Supply Outlook include:

- Going into winter, water storage levels in the major irrigation reservoirs in the Oldman River basin are normal as of November 1, 2002, with the exceptions of Keho Lake and the St. Mary, Forty Mile and Oldman Reservoirs, which are above-normal.
- Water storage in the Red Deer River basin is above-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 the fall, with the exceptions of Lake Newell and the Travers and Crawling Valley Reservoirs, which are above-normal, and the Brazeau Reservoir, which is below-normal.
- Current long-range weather forecasts indicate below-normal precipitation for the province during the 2002-03 winter due to a moderate El Niño that has developed in the tropical Pacific. Current indications are that the strength of this El Niño event will be less in magnitude than the event that occurred in the winter of 1997-98. The significance of an El Niño event to Alberta is that winter precipitation is typically below-normal during such events.

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