



Water Supply Outlook Overview

For Immediate Release: November 10, 2003

October precipitation improves stream levels

Throughout most of Alberta in October, precipitation ranged from normal to much above normal. Most of this precipitation fell as rain, and as a result water levels increased in many streams, especially those originating in the mountains and foothills.

While water levels are much higher than the near historical low water levels recorded in September, the levels are generally below average to average. The prairie streams in northeastern Alberta are the exception, with above average water levels.

Fall precipitation totals (September and October) in central and northwestern Alberta were generally normal to much below normal. Southern and northeastern Alberta received normal to much above normal precipitation.

Highlights of the November Water Supply Outlook include:

- As of November 1, 2003, water storage in major irrigation reservoirs in the Oldman River basin is generally below average, but much greater than at this time in the drought of 2001. Water storage in the major reservoir of the Red Deer River basin is average for this time of year, similar to last year.
- Water storage is average to above average as of November 1, 2003 in the major hydroelectric and irrigation reservoirs of the Bow River basin, except in Spray Lake and Lake Minnewanka which are below average. Storage in the Bow River basin is much greater than in the drought year of 2001.
- Water storage levels in the North Saskatchewan River basin are below average at the Brazeau Reservoir (approximately 20 per cent less water stored than at this time during the drought of 2002), and above average at Lake Abraham.
- Water storage in the Athabasca River basin at the South Heart Reservoir is below average, but has nearly twice the storage it had at this time during the drought of 2002.

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