

For Immediate Release: September 12, 2008

## **Seasonal natural runoff volumes are generally average to much above average**

Total natural runoff volumes for the March-August period range from above to much above average in the North Saskatchewan and Red Deer River basins, and most of the Oldman River basin. Despite the wet May and June months, natural runoff volumes in the Milk River basin are below average to average for the year. In the Bow River basin, natural runoff volumes vary from below to much below average in the upper Bow River basin (Bow River at Banff and Spray River), average in Kananaskis and above to much above average in Bow River at Calgary, Elbow River at Bragg Creek and Highwood River at the Mouth.

The natural runoff volumes for August 2008 rank between the 20th lowest year to 40th lowest year of 91 years of record for most locations. Volumes are much below average in the Milk River basin, Red Deer River basin, Bow River at Banff, Highwood River at the Mouth, Oldman River at Brocket, Waterton River at Waterton, Dickson Dam and Brazeau Reservoir inflows. Below average runoff volumes for this month were recorded in Bow River at Calgary, Elbow River at Bragg Creek, Spray and Minnewanka Lakes, Belly River at Mountainview, Oldman River at Lethbridge, North Saskatchewan River at Edmonton and St Mary and Bighorn Reservoirs. Natural runoff volumes recorded during August at Bow River at Banff, ranked 10th lowest on record.

The final streamflow volume forecasts for this year were produced in August, as volumes after September 1 represent a minor portion of yearly totals (on average 6% of March-Sept runoff volumes). A year in review report will be published next month. Check our [Forecaster's Comments](#) throughout the month for updated information regarding runoff conditions.

### ***Other Highlights (as of September 1, 2008):***

- Precipitation for August in most of Alberta varied from much below normal to normal with the exceptions of the areas in Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche, Grande Prairie-Grande Cache, Red Deer-Drumheller, and along the Saskatchewan border south of Lloydminster, which recorded above to much above normal precipitation.
- Summer precipitation, May through August 2008, in central and northern Alberta varied between much below normal and normal with the exception of the northwestern corner of Alberta, which recorded above to much above normal precipitation. Southern Alberta recorded above to much above normal precipitation except for the Cypress Hills area, which recorded normal precipitation. The mountains and foothills of Alberta recorded above to much above normal precipitation except for an area between Banff and Jasper, which recorded below normal to normal precipitation.
- Water storage in the major irrigation and hydroelectric reservoirs of southern and central Alberta generally varies from normal to above normal, except below normal in Travers and Waterton Reservoirs.