

## Ice Jam Watch for the Peace River at the Town of Peace River

Alberta Environment and Parks has issued an **Ice Jam Watch** for the Peace River at the town of Peace River.

A collapse of the newly formed ice cover (also called a secondary consolidation) in the Town of Peace River has resulted in an ice jam and high water levels. Water levels are currently 2 m higher than the target freeze-up elevation, but remain more than 3 m below the top of the dykes.

Several secondary consolidations have occurred through the Town of Peace River over the past few days, thickening the ice cover and raising water levels. A further consolidation occurred last night, causing sustained high water levels. Additional secondary consolidation events are possible, and water levels are being monitored closely.

BC Hydro further reduced their flow releases early this morning, in response to the risk of additional secondary consolidations and water level increases. This is planned to remain in effect until the ice cover stabilizes with colder temperatures. Alberta Environment and Parks, BC Hydro, and the Town of Peace River are in close contact regarding river ice conditions and operation of the BC Hydro Peace River facilities.

Note that the river ice advisory for freeze-up on the Peace River at the Town of Peace River will remain in effect until the ice cover stabilizes.

For the most recent ice front information, please see the Peace River Observation reports available from Alberta Environment and Parks at: <http://www.environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/RiverIce/index.html>. The Peace River Observation reports are also available on the Alberta Rivers application.

For more information about local flood response, residents should contact their local municipality and ask their primary emergency preparedness contact. Information is also available on the Town of Peace River website <http://peacriver.ca>.

On occasion, the winter freeze-up can lead to ice jams and rapidly rising water levels. Ice jams can obstruct the flow of the river. The potential exists for sudden changes in river levels both upstream and downstream of the ice jam. Rapidly increasing water levels can occur upstream of the ice jam as water collects behind it. The location and occurrence of ice jams, and possible associated flooding, are unpredictable. Local authorities are advised to monitor the situation in their community.

