ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Management
Water Management Operations
River Engineering Team

Date of Issue: April 20, 2007

2007-Athabasca River at Fort McMurray
Breakup Status Report No. 9

An observation flight was conducted on the Athabasca River on April 19 at 6:45 pm. The evening flight on April 19 monitored the release of the ice jam located at Moberly Rapids near the Water Treatment Plant. The following observations were made:

- an increase in water levels of approximately 1.3m from an upstream release of ice approached the 7 km long ice jam located at Moberly Rapids near the Water Treatment Plant
- consolidation of the broken ice in the upstream portion of the stationary ice jam occurred
- at approximately 8:00 pm the ice jam at Moberly Rapids released
- the intact ice cover remaining in the Fort McMurray area continued to break up as the ice front advanced downstream
- the breakup of the Athabasca River continued downstream past Grant Island and towards Poplar Island where the Athabasca River channel was open
- the Athabasca River continues to flow freely although some flowing broken ice is still evident
- an ice cover remains intact on the Clearwater River

There are no additional flights on the Athabasca River or Clearwater River scheduled.

The most current information with interactive maps and photos will be posted on the web site at http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/basins/BasinForm.cfm under the heading of River Ice Reports.