



River Breakup Advisory Update

Issued at: 1:45 PM, April 24, 2003
by: River Forecast Centre

River Breakup Advisory Update for Peace River downstream of the Town of Fort Vermilion

Alberta Environment has issued a **River Breakup Advisory** for the Peace River downstream of the Town of Fort Vermilion.

The River Breakup Advisory issued on April 17 remains in effect for the communities of Carcajou and Fort Vermilion.

On Wednesday, April 23, the breakup 'front' was located about 35 kilometres downstream of Fort Vermilion. However, a 39-kilometre long ice jam remained in place at Tompkin's Landing, causing flooding in the Village of Carcajou. A report from the MD of Northern Lights indicates that this ice jam released late this morning, which will cause a surge of ice and water to move toward Fort Vermilion.

Snowmelt runoff from the Peace River Basin, upstream of the confluence of the Smoky River with the Peace River (8 kilometres upstream of the Town of Peace River) appears to have peaked yesterday. Inflow from the Smoky River peaked on April 19, and is slowly decreasing, though flows in the Smoky River remain high. As a result, flows in the Peace River remain fairly high. Inflow from tributaries to the Peace River, north of the Town of Peace River, will also be contributing to the high flows.

The high flows in the Peace River near Fort Vermilion may cause continued high water levels as the river breaks-up. Communities possibly affected by the breakup include Fox Lake and all of the communities along the river within Wood Buffalo National Park (including Garden River, Little Fishery, Jackfish River, Peace Point, Sweetgrass Landing and Carlson's Landing).