

River Freezeup Advisory Update

Issued at 2:00 PM, February 21, 2006
Issued by: River Engineering Team, Northern Region

River Freezeup Advisory Update for the Peace River at Peace River

Alberta Environment has issued a **River Freezeup Advisory Update** for the Peace River at the Town of Peace River.

The ice front on the Peace River was most recently seen on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 about 13.5 km downstream from the town. Colder temperatures are forecast for the Peace River region and the ice front could advance into the Town of Peace River later this week.

Fluctuating water levels in the Town of Peace River have been observed and will continue due to the backwater effects caused by the approaching ice cover. The water levels will increase further, typically between 2.5 m and 3.5 m, as the ice cover moves through the town.

Flow releases from BC Hydro's Peace Canyon Dam will be kept relatively constant while the ice cover advances through the town. This is part of normal river ice management operations.

No problems are anticipated. However, due to the variation in the forecast temperatures over the next few days, there is potential for small ice movements and shoving of the ice cover as it advances upstream. These ice movements could cause rapid fluctuation in the water level in the area.

<p>River Freezeup refers to the formation of an ice cover which will result in a gradual increase in water levels. On occasion, the winter freeze-up can lead to ice jams and rapidly rising water levels. The location and occurrence of ice jams and the associated flooding are very unpredictable. Local authorities are advised to monitor the situation in their community.</p>
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Alberta Environment is monitoring river levels closely throughout Alberta for increases in river levels due to winter freezeup. This advisory is in effect for seven days and will be updated should conditions change.