

River Breakup Advisory for the Smoky River and the Peace River at Town of Peace River

Alberta Environment has issued a **River Breakup Advisory** for the lower portions of the Smoky River and the Peace River at the Town of Peace River.

As of Thursday, April 12, observations of the ice conditions on the Smoky and Peace Rivers show that the ice covers are beginning to show signs of melt. The ice front on the Peace River was most recently located on April 6, 2007 and was roughly 170 km upstream from the Town of Peace River. Based on this observation and the current weather forecast for the Peace River region it is expected that the Smoky River will break-up before the ice front on the Peace River recedes through the Town of Peace River.

Due to the much above average snow pack in the region and the unusually late onset of warmer spring temperatures, it is likely that water levels on the Peace and Smoky rivers will be higher than is typical during breakup. There is also a potential for the formation of ice jams and possibly flooding along the Peace and Smoky rivers.

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

Additional information is available from Alberta Environment at

<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/WS/ForecastersComments/Index.html>

With the onset of warmer Spring temperatures, ice breakup will occur in Alberta's rivers. This may result in the formation of ice jams, but not always. The location and occurrence of ice jams, and possible associated flooding, are very unpredictable. Local authorities are advised to monitor the ice covers and water levels in the rivers in their communities.

Alberta Environment is working closely with B.C. Hydro and the Municipal Government of the Town of Peace River to monitor the situation and prepare for changing river conditions. This advisory is in effect for 14 days and will be updated if there is any change in conditions.