

January 14, 2008
4:30 p.m.

Prince George Ice Jam and Flood

The City of Prince George received approval to pursue two possible solutions to the Nechako River ice jam situation on Monday.

Earlier today, the introduction of 15-degree Celsius water into the Nechako River channel was approved by the Provincial Emergency Program. The estimated cost for the project, which would bring water from the steam plant at the nearby Canfor pulp mill, is \$500,000.

Later in the day, the City's request to use a mechanical device to break up ice on the Nechako was approved as well. Now that river ice experts have determined there is sufficient open water on the Fraser to try to move ice from the Nechako river channel, it will be possible to safely use an amphibious excavating machine.

The unseasonably warm temperatures of the past week have resulted in open water on the Fraser River, creating an opportunity that did not exist before to move ice out of the Nechako.

"The Emergency Operation Centre is pursuing short- and medium-term solutions to the ice jam problem," said Derek Bates, EOC director. "Now that our ice expert has confirmed that the time is right for moving ice from the Nechako into open water on the Fraser, we can proceed with that short-term solution."

The Emergency Operation Centre will engage an amphibious excavating machine to do the work.

Area A – River Road

- Construction and debris clearing continues today.

Area B – Ongman Road/McAloney Crescent

- Pumping is taking place, as required.

Area C – Pulp Mill Road

- Pumping of low lying areas has resulted in dropping water levels, allowing clearing of accumulated debris and temporary raising of roads.

Area D – Delhaven/Pozer Road

- Pumping continues as required.

Area E – Morning Place/North Nechako Road

- Open water conditions remain evident in this area.

People immediately affected by the ice jam and flood and wish to acquire sandbags can call the Service Centre at 561-7600 for information.