



MEDIA RELEASE

Office of the Municipal Emergency Coordinator
1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

January 29, 2008
5:00 p.m.

Prince George Ice Jam and Flood – Day 50

The Ice Jam on the Nechako River has now grown well beyond the city limits and measures approximately 22 kilometers. While the ice jam continues to lengthen it has not caused any new flooding or damage from the ice.

The contract with Eco Technologies for use of the Amphibex amphibious excavator will not be extended. The Amphibex arrived in Prince George from Montreal on Friday, January, 18. It entered the Fraser River at Paddlewheel Park and worked at removing ice in the Fraser and Nechako rivers between January 19 and January 27. The Amphibex was able to help create an open channel in the lower Nechako River that measures about 5 kilometers long and 50 meters wide in some spots. The open channel has resulted in substantial drops in water levels in the areas that have received the most flooding since the Ice Jam & Flood began on December 11, 2007. The City of Prince George and the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Team wish to thank Eco Technologies and the 10-member crew that accompanied the Amphibex to Prince George for their excellent work in the extreme cold and hazardous conditions over the past week.

Work on the Warm Water System (WWS) finished yesterday and crews began testing the system immediately. Today, crews have been activating the system and slowly bringing the water temperatures up to optimum targets. Hot water is piped 3 kilometers from the Canfor Intercon pulp mill to the Canfor intake well which is located beside the Nechako River. Cool water from the well is mixed with the hot water from the pulp mill and then discharged through a flexible pipe into the open channel on the lower Nechako River at a temperature of about 14 degrees celsius. The warm water enters the river at approximately 2.5 kilometers upriver from the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser rivers and is expected to help keep the channel open until spring. The open channel will provide an outlet for ice shifts and water surges that occur further up the river.

The City and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Team will host the 2nd **Community Information Forum** tonight at the Civic Centre beginning at 7 pm. The meeting will consist of brief presentations on 'what's new' with the Ice Jam & Flood followed by a question-answer session.

Ice Jam & Flood information and photos are available for viewing on the City of Prince George website at www.city.pg.bc.ca

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