# EFFECTS OF WASTEWATER EFFLUENT DISCHARGES ON THE WATER QUALITY OF THE BEAVER RIVER

Prepared by:

Anne-Marie Anderson

Surface Water Assessment Branch Technical Services and Monitoring Division Alberta Environmental Protection

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Water quality surveys were conducted in the Beaver River in fall 1991 and in spring 1993 to 1) describe the effects of the spring and fall discharges from the Cold Lake/Grand Centre Regional Sewage System (CL/GC-RSS) and from the continuous treated municipal wastewater discharges from the Canadian Force Base-Cold Lake (CFB-WW); and 2) determine if the long-term PPWB monitoring site at Beaver Crossing is representative of the Beaver River water quality that enters Saskatchewan.

Water quality samples were collected during each of 14 surveys (8 in fall 1991, 6 in spring 1993) from four sites on the Beaver River (Ardmore, Beaver Crossing, Cherry Grove, Pierceland) and from three effluents (CL/GC-RSS, CFB-WW and CFB-SS a storm sewer on the Base).

As a result of the different treatment processes there were qualitative differences between the two municipal wastewater effluents and the quality of the CL/GC-RSS was generally inferior in spring. Phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations were consistently much higher in the wastewater effluents than in the Beaver River. Oxidized forms of nitrogen prevailed in the CFB-WW, whereas reduced forms of nitrogen prevailed in CL/GC-RSS. Bacteria counts were very low in the disinfected effluent from CFB-WW, but in spring they were high in the CL/GC-RSS. In fall, vanadium, chromium, cobalt, nickel, molybdenum cadmium, and arsenic were elevated in the CL/GC-RSS effluent. In the CFB-SS effluent zinc and copper were elevated in both spring and fall and high bacterial counts typified spring samples.

Concentrations of phosphorus, all forms of nitrogen, some major ions and associated variables, copper and arsenic were higher at the three Beaver River sites downstream of effluents than at Ardmore, the upstream site. Despite the poorer CL/GC-RSS effluent quality in spring, changes in Beaver River constituent concentrations were most noticeable in fall 1991 because river flows were exceptionally low. These low river flows are a result of the drought which has affected east central Alberta since the mid-1980's.

Concentration of many constituents did not meet Prairie Provinces Water Board Objectives, Alberta Interim Ambient Surface Water Quality Guidelines or Canadian Water Quality Guidelines in the Beaver River. For some (copper, chromium, total phosphorus and total nitrogen), non-compliance started or increased in frequency at Beaver Crossing, downstream of the discharges from the Canadian Forces Base. For others, (manganese, total nitrogen, total coliforms) non-compliance increased downstream of the CL/GC-RSS outfall. That effluent also contributed to the continued non-compliance of total phosphorus in the Beaver River. For other constituents (cadmium, iron, dissolved oxygen) non-compliance reflected natural background levels.

Flow frequency analysis indicated that flows in the Beaver River were exceptionally low during the fall 1991 surveys (October, November: 1 in 125 and 1 in 200 year low flows, respectively) and during the spring surveys (April, May: 1 in 24 and 1 in 11 year low flows, respectively). Under current effluent loads and average flow conditions non-compliance with water quality guidelines due to effluent discharges would be infrequent. Since low river flows are due to a local drought which in turn is due to unpredictable weather

patterns, it is not known when or for how long average flow conditions will return in the Beaver River.

In order to ensure that data from the long-term PPWB monitoring site represent at all times of the year and under all flow conditions the quality of the Beaver River as it enters Saskatchewan, it would be advisable to move the monitoring site downstream of the CL/GC-RSS outfall. This advice is based on the following facts: 1) During the discharge of GL/GC-RSS wastewater, differences in Beaver River quality are quite noticeable between Beaver Crossing and sites downstream of the outfall, especially at low river flow; 2) CL/GC-RSS discharges often coincide with a PPWB sampling event. When this occurs, the PPWB data at Beaver Crossing misrepresent Beaver River water quality at Cherry Grove to a degree which depends upon the river's dilution capacity at that time; and 3) The Regional Planning Commission is currently planning the expansion of GL/GC-RSS to accommodate further population growth in the area. The wastewater load to the Beaver River is likely to increase and the timing of discharge could change.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Andy DeBoer (Surface Water Assessment Branch) computed a discharge versus mean velocity relationship, provided an estimate of travel time and conducted a flow frequency analysis.

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Prairie Provinces Water Board (PPWB) has monitored the quality of the Beaver River at Highway #28 near Beaver Crossing on a monthly basis since 1974 (Figure 1). Because there were no known point source effluents between the long-term monitoring site and the Alberta/Saskatchewan border, data from the long-term site were expected to represent water quality of the Beaver River as it entered Saskatchewan.

The Canadian Force Base-Cold Lake has an extended aeration, secondary treatment plant (CFB-WW). It discharges treated and gas-chlorinated wastewater continuously (0.03 m³/s) to Marie Creek which enters the Beaver River upstream of the long-term monitoring site. The base also has intermittent discharges of surface runoff to the creek via storm sewers. At least one of these storm sewers (CFB-SS) which discharges runoff into Marie Creek just upstream of the CFB-WW outfall, also drains hangars where planes are maintained and washed. Until 1984, the towns of Cold Lake and Grand Centre also discharged their wastewater into Marie Creek. In November 1984 the Cold Lake/Grand Centre Regional Sewage System (CL/GC-RSS) began discharging to the Beaver River, about 3 km downstream of the long-term monitoring site. The treatment system is a multi-cell, combination anaerobic/facultative lagoon system. Wastewater is discharged twice a year, in spring (April-May) and in fall (October-November), at a constant rate (0.17 m³/s) during approximately 14 days.

In November 1987 a sampling program was conducted on the Beaver River during the discharges of CL/GC-RSS to determine the effects of the discharges on Beaver River water quality and to assess the validity of the long-term monitoring site as an indicator of water quality at the Alberta/Saskatchewan border. Flows in the Beaver River averaged 2.39 m³/s in November 1987 (Environment Canada 1988). The study concluded that during the wastewater discharges increases in nutrient levels (N and P) at the border were small and did not justify moving the long-term monitoring site (Nelson 1988).

Since 1987 the towns of Cold Lake and Grand Centre have expanded slightly. As a result of drought conditions which have plagued eastern-central Alberta since the mid-1980's, flows and dilution capacity of the Beaver River have declined.

These changes justified the need to re-evaluate the effects of wastewater discharges on Beaver River water quality. Because wastewater effluent and river water quality vary over time, surveys were conducted in both seasons when municipal discharges occur.

Specific objectives were:

- to describe effects of continuous and intermittent discharges of wastewater on Beaver River water quality in fall 1991 and spring 1993; and
- 2) to determine if, during the discharge of municipal wastewater, the long-term PPWB monitoring site at Beaver Crossing represents the quality of Beaver River water as it enters Saskatchewan.

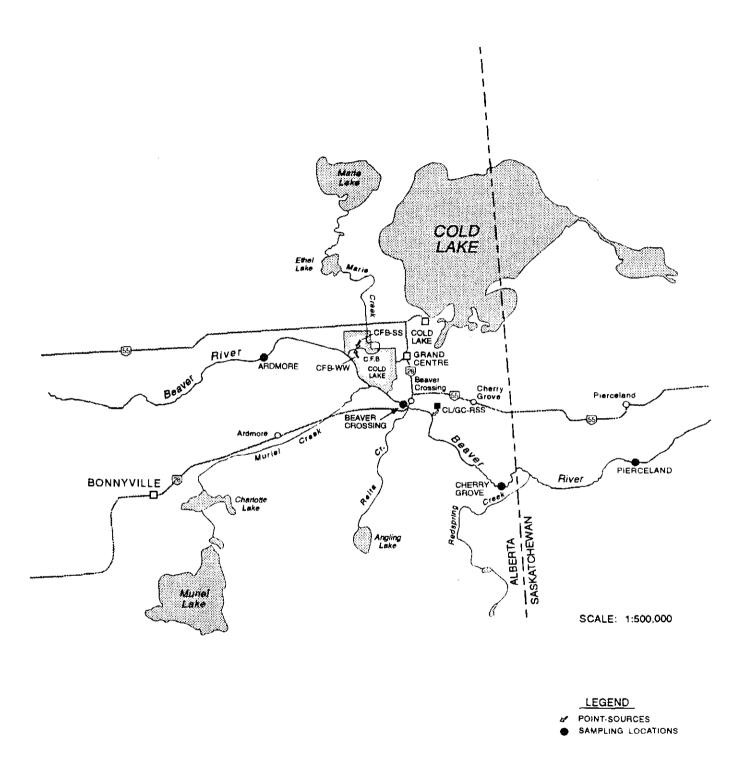


FIGURE 1. MAP OF THE BEAVER RIVER SHOWING RELATIVE LOCATION OF POINT-SOURCES AND SAMPLING LOCATIONS IN FALL 1991 AND SPRING 1993.

#### 2.0 METHODS

#### 2.1 FIELD METHODS

The four sampling sites on the Beaver River and the three effluents sampled in 1991 and 1993 are described in Table 1. The sampling schedule is summarized in Table 2.

#### 2.2 LABORATORY METHODS

Water samples were processed by the Water Analysis and Research Branch, Alberta Environmental Centre, Vegreville.

Chlorophyll a was measured at the Technical Services and Monitoring Division field laboratory in Edmonton.

Bacterial samples were analyzed by the Provincial Laboratory of Public Health in Edmonton.

Table 3 lists water quality variables for which these samples were analyzed.

#### 2.3 DATA ANALYSIS

Longitudinal changes in constituent concentration over successive surveys are presented in graphs which were inspected visually.

The Wilcoxon signed-rank test (Sokal and Rohlf 1969) was used to compare constituent concentrations measured at Beaver Crossing with those measured at the Cherry Grove site and at Pierceland.

For selected contaminants, in-stream concentrations were compared with concentrations predicted from effluent loads and in-stream loads at the upstream sampling site. The following formula were used in the calculations:

$$[Beaver\ Crossing_{predicted}] = \{[Ardmore_{measured}]\ x\ (\underline{Q}_{dBeaver\ Crossing} - \overline{Q}_{CFB-WW} - \overline{Q}_{CFB-SS}) + [CFB-WW_{measured}]\ x\ \overline{Q}_{CFB-WW} + [CFB-SS_{measured}]\ x\ \overline{Q}_{CFB-SS}\} / \ Q_{dBeaver\ Crossing}$$

$$\frac{[\text{Cherry Grove}_{\text{predicted}}] = \{[\text{Beaver Crossing}_{\text{measured}}] \text{ x } Q_{\text{dBeaver Crossing}} + [\text{CL/GC-RSS}_{\text{measured}}] \text{ x } Q_{\text{dBeaver Crossing}} + \overline{Q}_{\text{CL/GC-RSS}}\}$$

with [...] = concentration in mg/L

Qd = daily discharge in m<sup>3</sup>/s Q = average discharge in m<sup>3</sup>/s

Table 1. List of Beaver River sites and effluents sampled in fall 1991 and spring 1993.

SITE NAME	NAQUADAT CODE	LOCATION
Beaver River at Ardmore  - 3 point composite <sup>1</sup> - right bank <sup>2</sup> - centre channel <sup>2,3</sup> - left bank <sup>2</sup>	- 00AL06AC3490 - 00AL06AC3491 - 00AL06AC3500 - 00AL06AC3505	26.6 km u/s of Beaver Crossing and 13.2 km u/s of confluence with Marie Creek
Beaver River at Highway #28 Bridge near Beaver Crossing  - 3 point composite <sup>1</sup> - right bank <sup>2</sup> - centre channel <sup>2,3</sup> - left bank <sup>2</sup>	- 00AL06AD3990 - 00AL06AD3991 - 00AL06AD4000 - 00AL06AD4005	13.4 km d/s Marie Creek confluence and 3.3 km u/s of CL/GC-RSS outfall
Beaver River at Gravel Pit near AB/Sask. Cherry Grove  - 3 point composite <sup>1</sup> - right bank <sup>2</sup> - centre channel <sup>2,3</sup> - left bank <sup>2</sup>	- 00AL06AD4990 - 00AL06AD4991 - 00AL06AD5000 - 00AL06AD5005	21 km d/s of CL/GC-RSS outfall; 5.6 km u/s of AB/Sask. border
Beaver River at <b>Pierceland</b> , Sask.  - 3 point composite!  - right bank2  - centre channel <sup>2,3</sup> - left bank <sup>2</sup>	- 00SA06AD0990 - 00SA06AD0991 - 00SA06AD1000 - 00SA06AD1005	51.6 km d/s of CL/GC-RSS outfall; 25 km d/s AB/Sask. border
Canadian Forces Base - Cold Lake storm sewer effluent at Marie Creek <sup>1,2,3</sup> (CFB-SS)	- 23AL06AC1000	·
Canadian Forces Base - Cold Lake wastewater effluent at Marie Creek <sup>1,2,3</sup> (CFB-WW)	- 21AL06AC0500	
Cold Lake/Grand Centre Regional Sewage System outfall to Beaver River 1.2.3 (CL/GC-RSS)	- 21AL06AD4600	

- 1. Water chemistry
- 2. Field measurement
- 3. Bacteria

Table 2. Summary of sample collections carried out in fall 1991 and spring 1993.

SITE	COMPOSITE GRAB <sup>1</sup>	RIGHT BANK <sup>2</sup>	CENTRE 2.3	LEFT BANK <sup>2</sup>	GRAB <sup>1,2,3</sup>
Ardmore	1	1	1	_ /	
Beaver Crossing	1	1	✓	1	
Cherry Grove	1	1	✓ ·	1	
Pierceland	1	/		1	
CL/GC-RSS					1
CFB-Cold Lake Wastewater					1
CFB-Cold Lake Storm Sewer					<b>/</b> <sup>4</sup>

- 1. Composite of equal volumes of water taken from left bank, right bank and centre channel or grab sample and analyzed for constituents listed in Table 3.
- 2. Field measurements of pH, temperature, conductivity and dissolved oxygen
- 3. Surface grab samples for bacterial counts
- 4. Hydrocarbons, extractable priority pollutants

Sampling dates: 1991: Oct 30, 31, Nov. 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 19

1993: Apr 21, 29, May 5, 12, 19, and 26

Table 3. List of water quality variables.

VARIABLE NAME	ABBREVIATION	NAOUADAT CODE	I DATEDO(1)
		NAQUADAT CODE	UNITS <sup>(1)</sup>
Carbon, diss. organic	DOC	06101 L	
Carbon, diss. inorganic	DIC	06151 L	
Carbon, particulate	PC	06154 L	
Nitrogen, particulate	PN	07906 L	
Total phosphorus	TP	15421 L	
Diss. phosphorus	Diss. P	15101 L	
Total Kjeldahl nitrogen	TKN	07015 L	
Diss. ammonia	NH <sub>3</sub> -N	07561 L	
Diss. nitrate+nitrite	$(NO_2+NO_3)-N$	07111 L	
Diss. nitrite	NO <sub>2</sub> -N	07205 L	
Biochemical oxygen demand	BOD	08201 L	
Non-filterable residue	NFR	10401 L	
Turbidity		02074 L	NTU
Phenol	ļ	06536 L	
pH	1	10301 L	
Conductivity		02041 L	μS/cm
Total dissolved solids	TDS	00205 L	μο, ε
Calcium	Ca	20105 L	
Magnesium	Mg	12102 L	
Total CaCO <sub>3</sub> hardness	·	10603 L	
Sodium	Na	11101 L	
Potassium	K	19101 L	
Fluoride	F	19107 L	
Sulphate	SO₄	16305 L	
Chloride	Cl	17201 L	
Reactive silica	SiO <sub>2</sub>	14107 L	
Alkalinity, total	T. Alk	10101 L	
Bicarbonate	HCO <sub>3</sub>	06202 L	
Chlorophyll a	Chl a	6715 L	mg/m³
Aluminum, extr.	Aì -	13030 L	
Vanadium, total	V	23001 L	1
Chromium, total	Cr	24004 L	
Manganese, total	Mn	25001 L	
Iron, total	Fe	26009 L	
Cobalt, total	Со	27009 L	
Nickel, total	Ni	28007 L	
Copper, total	Cu	29003 L	
Zinc, total	Zn	30030 L	
Molybdenum, total	Mo	42001 L	
Cadmium, total	Cd	48002 L	
Barium, total	Ba	56001 L	
Arsenic, total	As	33001 L	
Arsenic, diss.	As	33101 L	
Lead, extr.	Pb	82301 L	
Beryllium, diss.	Be	04101 L	
Selenium, total	Se	34003 L	
Mercury, total	Hg	8002 L	[
Temperature	T	02061 F	°C ∣
pH		10301 F	pH units
Conductivity		02041 F	μS/cm
Oxygen (meter)	DO	08101 F	
Oxygen (Winkler)	DO	08101 L	
Coliform, total		36001 L	No. per 100 mL
Coliform, fecal		36011 L	No. per 100 mL
Fecal Strep.		36101 L	No. per 100 mL

<sup>(1)</sup> Units are mg/L unless stated otherwise

Travel time was taken into consideration by choosing dates and corresponding sample data which matched predicted travel time as closely as possible (see Section 3.2). Note that in this simple steady state model, predicted concentration at Pierceland is the same as that predicted for the Cherry Grove site.

In-stream concentrations were compared with PPWB objectives (PPWBO, PPWB 1990), Alberta Surface Water Quality Interim Guidelines (ASWQG, Alberta Environment 1993) and Canadian Water Quality Guidelines (CWQG, CCREM 1987).

#### 3.0 HYDROLOGICAL FEATURES

#### 3.1 RIVER FLOWS AND EFFLUENT DILUTION

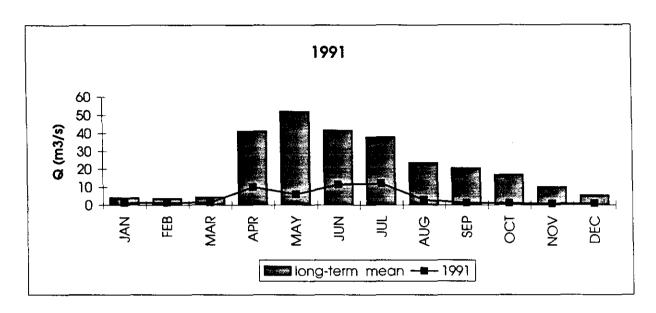
The quantity of water flowing in a river when effluent is discharged determines the degree of dilution and influences changes in the quality of the receiving stream. Stream flow varies from day-to-day, season-to-season and year-to-year and this variability must be taken into account when effects from effluent discharges on in-stream water quality are assessed.

Discharge in the Beaver River tends to peak in April and May as a result of snow melt and local runoff; it declines gradually over the open-water season and reaches a minimum in February (Figure 2). Spring discharges from the CL/GC-RSS generally coincide with high river flows in April and May, whereas in fall the effluent discharges occur in late October-November at much lower river flows. In 1991 average daily river discharge for November was 0.730 m³/s; in 1993 average daily river discharge in May was 6.76 m³/s. During the effluent release, daily river discharge ranged from 0.551 to 0.891 m³/s in fall 1991 and from 4.55 to 10.0 in spring 1993 (Environment Canada (1992, 1994). These daily river discharge fluctuations imply that at a constant effluent release rate of 0.17 m³/s, effluent dilution in the Beaver River ranged from 1:3 to 1:5 in fall 1991 and from 1:27 to 1:59 in spring 1993.

Discharge in the Beaver River fluctuates naturally from year to year, but as a consequence of the drought in the eastern part of the province, average annual discharge has dropped steadily since the early 1980's (Figure 3). The degree of impact from wastewater effluent discharges on water quality can be expected to change as river flows and the river's dilution capacity change over the years. It is important to note that all water quality surveys conducted on the Beaver River to measure the effects of wastewater discharges have been carried out in the last 10 years at lower than average river discharge. Consequently, and assuming higher flows return (see section 4.5), measured effects can be expected to be greater than 'average'.

#### 3.2 TRAVEL TIME

A discharge versus mean velocity relationship was computed by the Hydrology Section (Surface Water Assessment Branch, Technical Services and Monitoring Division) from data presented in Environment Canada (1977). For a given discharge, the computed mean velocity was assumed to be applicable to the entire study reach. The discharge and velocity estimates are given in Table 4 for 2 dates during the fall 1991 and spring 1993 effluent release period. Travel time estimates are presented in Table 5.



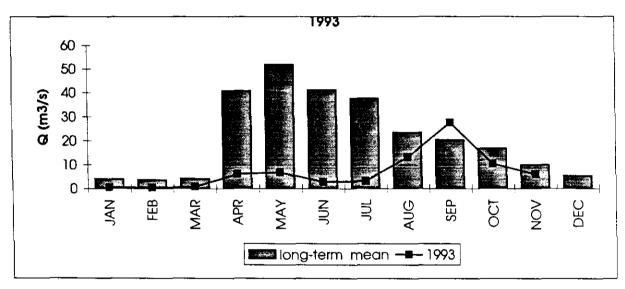


Figure 2. Comparison of long-term (1956-1990) mean monthly discharge in the Beaver River (Cold Lake Reserve - Station No. 06AD006) with mean daily discharge per month in 1991 and 1993 Source: Environment Canada (1992-1993)

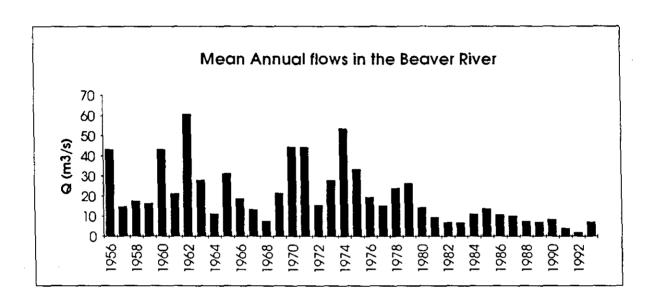


Figure 3: Long-term changes in mean annual flows in the Beaver River (Cold Lake Reserve - Station No 06AD006)

Source: Environment Canada (1992)

Table 4. Discharge and vel Reserve.	ocity estimates for the Beave	er River at Cold Lake
DATE	MEAN DAILY DISCHARGE (m³/s)	MEAN VELOCITY (m/s)
Nov 1, 1991	0.552	0.143
Nov 15, 1991	0.730	0.158
Apr 26, 1993	7.06	0.339
May 5, 1993	4.55	0.293

Table 5. Travel t	ime estimates.				
LOCATION	DISTANCE			ME h)	
	(km)	01/11/91	15/11/91	26/04/93	05/05/93
Ardmore	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Beaver Crossing	26.6	51.5	46.9	21.8	25.2
CL/GC-RSS	29.9	57.9	52.7	24.5	28.4
Cherry Grove	50.9	98.6	89.7	41.6	48.3
Pierceland	81.5	157.8	143.6	66.7	77.4

#### 4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS

Table 6 presents average water chemistry for the Beaver River at Ardmore (i.e., above point-source discharges), the CFB-WW effluent, CFB-SS outfall and the CL/GC-RSS effluent during fall 1991 and spring 1993 surveys.

#### 4.1.1 Comparison of Wastewater Effluents with Beaver River Water Quality

The most notable differences between wastewater effluent and the Beaver River quality are the much higher effluent phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations.

Total phosphorus concentrations in the CL/GC-RSS effluent are higher in spring than in fall, but the seasonal difference is much less pronounced in the CFB-WW. On average TP concentrations are 40 to 60 times higher than in the Beaver River and most of the phosphorus occurs as dissolved phosphorus. Average total phosphorus concentrations in the CL/GC-RSS are only slightly higher than in the CFB-WW.

As a result of differences in treatment process, there are certain differences in the quality of the two wastewater effluents, particularly as it relates to the dominant forms of nitrogen. The CFB-WW relies on extended aeration, secondary treatment and gas chlorination. The CL/GC-RSS is a multi-cell combination anaerobic/facultative lagoon system. The treatment of the CFB-WW breaks organic nitrogen compound down to oxidized forms of nitrogen. As a result (NO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>3</sub>)-N levels are very high (average >10 mg/L), but TKN and NH<sub>4</sub>-N are relatively low. In the lagoon system where CL/GC-RSS wastewater is treated, oxidation is not as complete and TKN and NH<sub>4</sub>-N tend to be much higher than (NO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>3</sub>)-N. TKN and NH<sub>4</sub>-N are particularly high in spring lagoon effluent. Poorer effluent quality in spring compared to fall has been documented for many lagoon systems in Alberta (Beier 1987) and is attributed to the slower degradation and oxidation of organic matter under ice and the thermal mixing which occurs in the lagoon after ice melts.

Bacteria counts are another feature which distinguishes wastewaters from the Beaver River. Bacteria counts in individual samples from CL/GC-RSS were low in the fall of 1991 except for a single high count which boosted averages well above average counts for the Beaver River. In spring, bacteria counts in the effluent were consistently higher than in the river and contributed to the poorer effluent quality compared to fall. The CFB-WW is disinfected by gas chlorination before being released to Marie Creek. As a result of the chlorination process bacteria counts were lower (total coliforms) or comparable (fecal coliforms and fecal streptococci) to counts in the Beaver River.

Average concentration of several metals were higher in wastewater effluents than in the Beaver River. In particular, levels of Zn and Cu were higher in the CFB-WW effluent than in the river, but Fe and Mn concentrations were lower. Differences between spring and fall effluent quality were observed in the CL/GC-RSS with V, Cr, Co, Ni, Mo, Cd, and As being higher in fall than in spring and with effluent concentrations in fall being higher than concentrations in the Beaver River. Fe and Mn were an exception to this pattern as effluent

Table 6. Comparison of average river water quality at Ardmore with average effluent quality to the Beaver River.

SITE NAME	SEASON	CARBON DISS ORG	CARBON DISS INORG	CARBON PART	NITROGEN PART	P	DISS	N TION	N DISS NHS	N DISS O2 NO3N	N DISS NO2	BOD 5 DAY	NFR	TURB	PHENOL	PH	COND US/CM	CALCD	Ca DISS	Mg DISS	HARDNESS TOTAL CGCO3	Na DISS
		06101	06151L	06154L	07906L	15421L	151016	07015L	07561L	07111L	07 <b>205</b> L	08201L	10401L	02074L	065361	103011	02041L	00205L	20106(	12102L	10603(	111010
BEAVER R. AT ARDMORE	Average fall '91	14.05	102.19			0.036	0.011	0.76	0.097	0.022	0.002	1.1	3	5	0.007	7.98	āll	471	83	33	345	-00
	Average spring '93	11.36	44.46	1.55	0.2)	0.071	0.018	0.66	0.010	0.002	0.001	2.1	7	5	0.005	8.33	346	223	43	16	173	22
CFB WW EFFLUENT	Average (of '9)	9.69	32.25			2.490	2.264	1.60	0.391	12.722	0.023	2.3	2	2	0.005	7.44	515	291	37	13	144	44
	Average spring 193	9.20	33.10	1.39	0.20	2.903	2.020	1.16	0.040	11.473	0.001	1.3	3	2	0.006	7.55	584	322	41	15	165	50
CFB STORM SEWER	Average fall '91	6.40	59.50			0.158	0.119	0.49	0.064	0.985	0.026	4.2	6	5	0.002	8.12	545	294	67	24	267	15
	Average spring 193	5.60	55.00	0.55	0.06	0.061	0.050	1.60	0.582	6.487	0.116	2.1	5	1	0.003	8.11	605	328	70	26	280	15
CL/GC-WW ELLUENT	Average fall '91	20.47	75.57			2,188	2.057	4.98	3.198	0.403	0.123	2.6	2	5	0.013	7.96	803	456	63	29	276	65
	Average spring/93	21.15	73,43	14.10	2.51	4.123	3.633	17.00	12.650	0.074	0.032	16.4	27	20	0.017	7.97	617	338	53	24	231	64
		К.	F	ş04	CI	SILICA	ALK	HCQ3	AJ	v	Cr	Mn	Fe .	Co	NI	Cu	Žn.	Мо	Çd	Ba	As	_
		DIS\$	DISS	DISS	DIS\$	REACT	MICT	LAB	ĐXT	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	POTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	DIAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	
SITE NAME	SEASON	1910)L	091 <b>0</b> 7L	16305L	17201L	SIO2 14107L	CaCO3 1010 IL	06202L	13030L	23001L	24004L	250011	260091	27009L	26007£	29003L	<b>30</b> 030L	42001L	48002L	56001L	33001L	
BEAVER & AT ARDMORE	Average (of '9)	3.4	0.21	30	11.9	9.7	416	507	9.02	0.004	0.004	0.115	0.473	0.601	0.905	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.089	0.0009	-
	Average spring 93	2.9	0.12	17	4.9	4.2	196	234	0.01	L.002	0.002	0.048	0.612	1.001	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.001	L 001	0.061	0.001	
CFB WW EFFLUENT	Average fati '91	8.2	t.15	20	34.3	9.0	131	159	0.03	L.002	0.002	0.018	0.056	L001	0.002	0.017	0.029	0.001	0.001	0.019	0.001	
	Average spring 193	7.5	0.95	17	54.6	6.4	143	174	0.03	L.002	0.002	0.005	0.045	L.001	0.002	0.028	0.039	0.001	1.001	0.026	0.0009	
CFB-55 EFFLUENT	Average fall '91	2.7	0.72	10	20.â	11.9	249	304	0.02	0.003	0.003	0.058	0.171	L.001	0.005	0.019	0.019	0.003	0.002	0.265	0.0016	
	Average spring '93	2.6	0.52	12	29.6	9.4	240	293	0.01	0.002	0.002	0.072	0.205	L.001	0.002	0.017	0.029	0.002	L.001	0.234	0.0012	
CL/GC-RSS EFFLUENT	Average fall '91	10.5	1.06	56	42.7	15.4	307	374	0.04	0.043	0.045	0.049	0.02	0.013	0.011	0.012	0.013	0.014	0.015	0.016	0.0047	
	Average spring '93	10.5	0.91	33	42.1	13.7	329	300	0.08	0.003	0.001	0.30\$	0.611	0.001	0.004	0.013	9.01	0.001	L.001	0.044	0.003	
		As	Pb	le .	5+	Нд	1	PH	COND	ĐO	DO	COLIF,	COLIF.	FECAL	CHI-A							
SITE NAME	SEASON	DISS	EXT	DISS	TOTAL	TOTAL	DEG.C		US/CM	METER O2	WINKLR O2	TOTAL 3 per 100 r	FECAL > per 100 r	STREP	ma/m3							
and Month	venos.	331011	82301L	04101L	34003L	6002L	020**F	103**F	020**F	081**F	061011	36001L	36011L	36101(	6715							
BEAVER R. AT ARDMORE	Average (all '91	0.0005	0.002	L.001	L.DOO1	L.0001	0.03	7.32	773	6.16	5.37	20	6									
	Average spring '03		L.002	1.001	0.0001	1.0001	11.32	8,15	396	9.54	9.4	562	7	8								
CFC-WW EFFLUENT	Average fall '91	0.003	0.002	L.001	0.0001	£.0001	10.24	6.96	499	7.63	8.27	4	L10.									
	Average spring 193		0.002	L.001	0.0001	L.0001	11.84	7.11	580	7.18	7.99	63	10	4								
CL/GC-RSS EFFLUENT	Average fall '91	0.0014	0.002	£.001	0.0003	L.0001	1.95	7.72	789	12.2		4868	651									
	Average spring '93		0.001	L. <b>00</b> 1	0.0002	L.0001	13.61	6.31	783	9.63		21750	113	31								
CFB-SS EFFLUENT	Average faif91	0.0035	0.001	L.001	0.0002	L.0001	a.9	7.3	533	10		7200	75									
	Average spring '93		0.002	L.001	0.0002	L.0001	6.01	7.86	587	11.12	11.15	37288	16357	155	295.9							

NOTE: values below the detection limit were set to the detection limit for the calculation of averages; where all values were below the detection limit, the average was below the detection limit.

concentrations were lower in fall than in spring; in spring effluent concentrations equalled (Fe) or exceeded (Mn) river concentrations.

Cold Lake is the source of domestic water for the towns of Cold Lake, Grand Centre and for the Canadian Forces Base. The lake has rather low conductivity and low levels of TDS and major ions (Mitchell and Prepas 1991). The treated wastewater which is released by the towns and the base reflects these quality features of the source water. Although, average effluent concentrations of K<sup>+</sup>, F<sup>-</sup>, and Cl<sup>-</sup> are 3 to 5 times higher in the effluents than in the Beaver River the wastewater tends to have relatively low conductivity and its TDS and major ion concentrations are comparable or only slightly higher than those in the Beaver River. This situation is quite different from that encountered in the Battle River drainage basin where many municipalities utilize ground water rich in TDS as a source of domestic water and where municipal discharges of wastewater contribute substantially to the TDS and major ion load in the river (Anderson 1994).

#### 4.1.2 Comparison of Storm Sewer Effluent with Beaver River Water Quality

The CFB-SS also has elevated nutrient concentrations compared to the Beaver River. Cu, Zn, As and especially Ba concentrations were higher than in the river. Bacterial counts were unexpectedly high in the storm sewer effluent in spring 1993. The average total coliform and fecal coliform counts in excess of 37,000 and 16,000 per 100 mL, respectively, strongly suggest sewage contamination.

Because moderate foaming was noticed at the CFB-SS outfall, additional samples were collected for the analysis of surfactants, hydrocarbons and extractable priority pollutants. The results of these analyses are presented in Table 7. Hydrocarbons were not detected in the effluent. However, surfactants were measured in all samples and several extractable priority pollutants (such as phthalates) were measured, or tentatively identified in the effluent.

Surfactants, also called surface active agents or wetting agents, are organic chemicals that reduce surface tension in water and other liquids. They are used in household products (e.g., soaps, laundry detergents, dish-washing liquids) and they have industrial and agricultural applications (lubricants, emulsion polymerization). Surfactants available on today's markets are generally highly biodegradable and have low toxicity (CCREM 1987). Surfactants can cause foaming and their presence in samples from CFB-SS could explain the observed foaming of the effluent.

Phthalate esters represent a large group of chemicals widely used as plasticizers in polyvinyl chloride resins, adhesives and cellulose film coating. Other applications are found in cosmetics, rubbing alcohol, insect repellant, insecticides, tablet coating and solid rocket propellants (CCREM 1987). These compounds are often detected in field blanks (Noton and Shaw 1989, Anderson 1994, EQMB unpublished data). It is not possible to determine whether the phthalate esters detected in samples from the CFB-SS were the result of sample contamination in the field or in the laboratory or from contamination by products used at the base and containing these compounds.

Table 7. Organic compounds detected in the CFB-SS.

		EXTRACTABLE PRIORITY POLLUTANTS(1)										
	Surfactans (mg/L)	Bis(2-ethyl hexyl) phthalate	Butylbenzyl phthalate	Dibutyl phthalate	Diethyl phtalate	Aliphatic acid (C16)	TAAP-2-propanol, 1,3-Dichlorophosphate (3:1)	Polyethylene glycol polymers (3)	Alkyl phenoxy ethers			
Oct. 31/91	0.52		1.x		1.x				300**			
Nov. 6/91	0.58											
Apr. 29/93	2.44											
May 5/93	1.69											
May 12/93	2.22											
May 19/93	1.50	1	1.X	0.B		0.2**	0.3**					
May 26/93	1.14	2	1	1.B	0.X			6**				

<sup>(1) =</sup> Concentrations in µg/L unless indicated otherwise

NA = Not analyzed

B = Analyte found in blank as well as in sample
X = Estimated value. Target compound is less than MDL
\*\*\* = Estimated concentrations for tentatively identified compounds

# 4.2 LONGITUDINAL AND TEMPORAL CHANGES IN BEAVER RIVER WATER QUALITY DURING THE CL/GC-RSS DISCHARGES

Results of the Wilcoxon signed rank test are shown in Table 8. The tests were performed on data collected during the CL/GC-RSS discharges and include the samples collected immediately after the end of the discharge, but exclude samples collected before the discharge. Figure 4 to 7 show temporal changes in constituent concentration at the four river sites for selected variables (i.e., variables for which concentration changes were visible).

#### 4.2.1 Fall 1991

There was a significant (Wilcoxon Signed Rank test, p<0.05) increase in TP, DP, TKN, NH<sub>3</sub>-N, (NO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>3</sub>)-N, NO<sub>2</sub>-N, Mg, hardness, Na, K, F, Cl, and Zn concentrations between Ardmore and Beaver Crossing.

Although Zn, Ba and ( $NO_2+NO_3$ )-N concentrations declined between Ardmore and Cherry Grove, a further increase in the concentration of all other constituents was measured between the two sites. In addition, significant (Wilcoxon Signed Rank test, p<0.05) increases in DOC, conductivity, TDS,  $SO_4$ ,  $SiO_2$ , dissolved and total As were recorded between the latter sites.

Results of statistical testing of concentration differences between Beaver Crossing and Pierceland are somewhat misleading because only a small number of samples (3 out of 7) were taken at Pierceland during the passage of the effluent plume. For example, the Wilcoxon Signed Rank test reveals no significant difference in TP, DP, NO<sub>2</sub>-N or F whereas an inspection of graphs in Figure 4 to 6 shows a notable increase for the last three surveys when the effluent plume had reached Pierceland. Nevertheless, the Wilcoxon signed rank test identified significantly higher concentrations of DIC, NH<sub>3</sub>-N, conductivity, TDS, Mg, Na, K, SO<sub>4</sub>, Cl, and alkalinity at Pierceland (Table 8). In contrast, turbidity, Mn, Fe, Zn, and Ba levels were lower at Pierceland than at Beaver Crossing.

In fall 1991 in-stream total coliform (TC) and fecal coliform (FC) counts were low at all sites (i.e., TC <100 and FC <20 per 100 mL) with the exception of a sample collected at the Cherry Grove site on November 19 (Appendix 1). TC and FC counts in that sample were 900 and 111, respectively. These high counts at the Cherry Grove site were recorded on the same day as very high bacterial counts in the CL/GC-RSS effluent (TC: 34,000, FC: 4,500).

#### 4.2.2 Spring 1993

Of the six surveys conducted in spring 1993, four were conducted during the passage of the effluent plume. This yielded an insufficient number of paired samples to obtain reliable statistical test results with the Wilcoxon Signed Rank test. Therefore, statistical testing was omitted; concentration differences among sites are only depicted graphically in Figures 4 to 7.

Because travel time was faster in spring 1993 than in fall 1991 most samples from the Cherry Grove site and Pierceland were taken during the passage of the effluent plume.

Summary of results of Wilcoxon Signed Rank test comparing water quality characteristics of four sites on the Beaver River, fall 1991 surveys. Table 8.

VARIABLE	ARDMORE VERSUS BEAVER CROSSING	BEAVER CROSSING VERSUS CHERRY GROVE	BEAVER CROSSING VERSUS PIERCELAND
DOC	ns	* (+)	ns
DIC	ns	ns	* (+)
TP	* (+)	* (+)	ns
Diss. P.	* (+)	* (+)	ns
TKN	* (+)	* (+)	ns
NH <sub>3</sub> -N	* (+)	* (+)	* (+)
(NO <sub>2</sub> -NO <sub>3</sub> )-N	* (+)	* (-)	ns
NO <sub>2</sub> -N	* (+)	* (+)	ns
BOD	ns	ns	ns
NFR	ns	ns	ns
Turbidity	ns	ns	* (-)
Phenols	ns	ns	ns
pН	ns	ns	ns
Conductivity	ns	* (+)	* (+)
TDS	ns	* (+)	* (+)
Ca	ns	ns	ns
Mg	* (+)	ns	* (+)
Hardness	* (+)	ns	ns
Na	* (+)	* (+)	* (+)
K	* (+)	* (+)	* (+)
F	* (+)	* (+)	ns
SO <sub>4</sub>	ns	* (+)	* (+)
Cl	* (+)	* (+)	* (+)
SiO <sub>2</sub>	ns	* (+)	ns
Alkalinity	ns	ns	* (+)
Cr	ns	ns	ns
Mn	* (-)	ns	* (-)
Fe	ns	ns	* (-)
Ni	ns	ns	ns
Cu	ns	ns	ns
Zn	* (+)	* (-)	* (-)
Cd	ns	ns	ns
Ba	ns	* (-)	* (-)
As	ns	* (+)	ns
Diss. As	ns	* (+)	ns

<sup>\* =</sup> Significantly different or P < 0.05ns = Not significant or P < 0.05

<sup>- =</sup> Significant decrease

<sup>+ =</sup> Significant increase

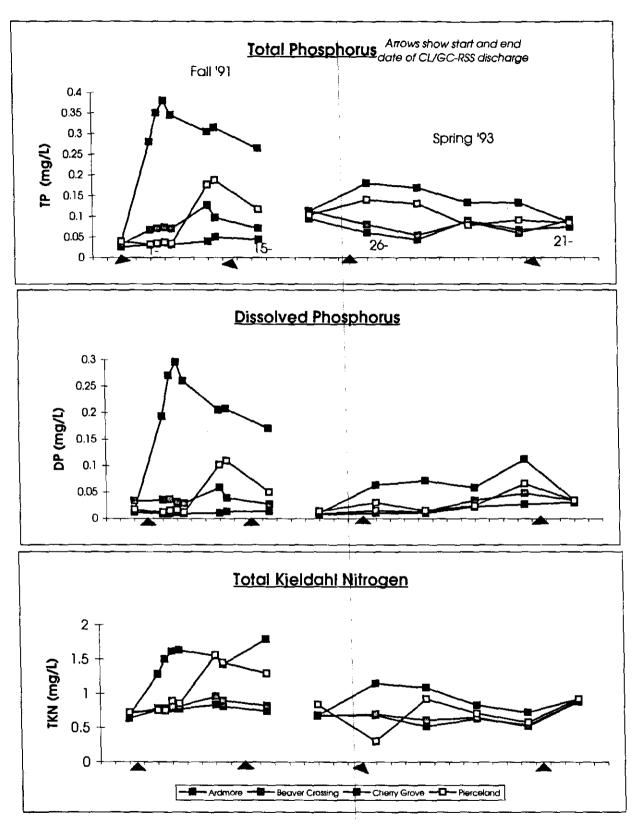


Figure 4. Longitudinal changes in phosphorus and Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen concentrations in the Beaver River during the discharge of effluent from CL/GC-RSS in fall 1991 and spring 1993

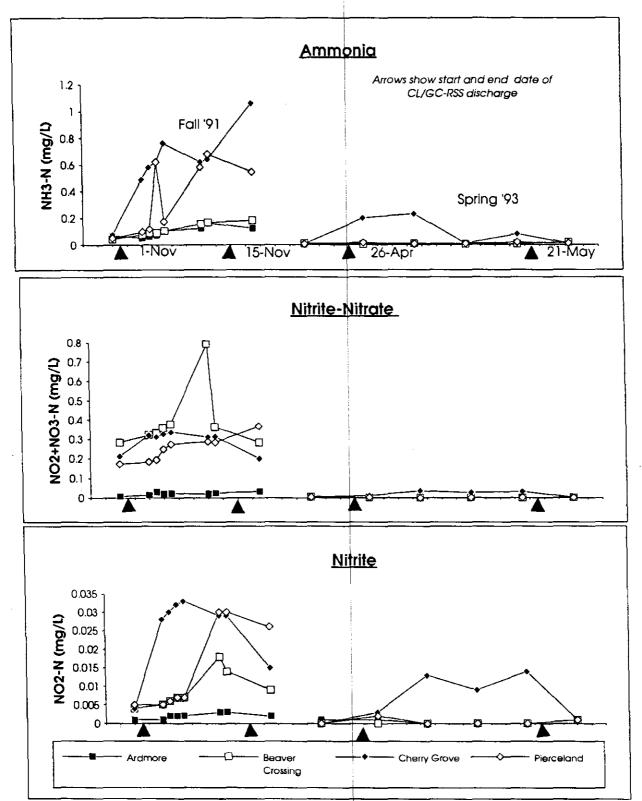


Figure 5: Longitudinal Changes in ammonia, nitrite and nitrate in the Beaver River during the discharge of effluent from CL/GC-RSS in fall 1991 and spring 1993

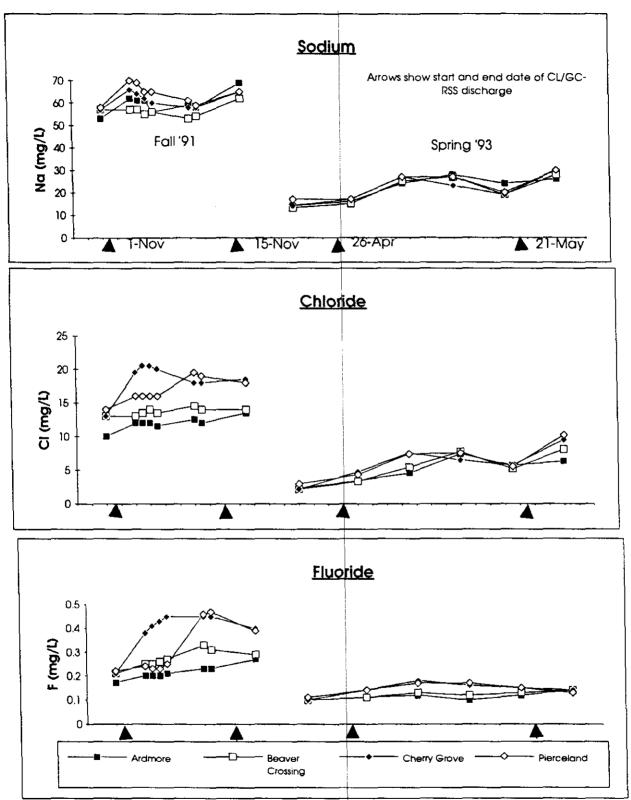


Figure 6. Longitudinal changes in sodium, chloride and fluoride in the Beaver River during the discharge of effluent from CL/GC-R\$S in fall 1991 and spring 1993

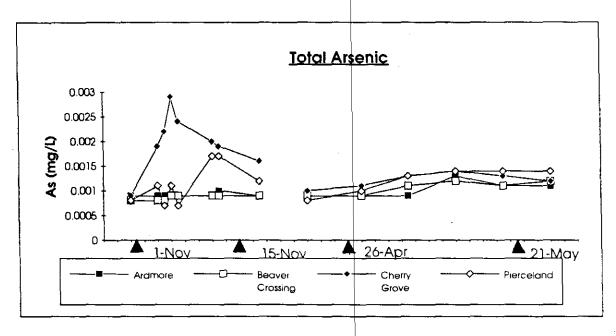


Figure 7: Longitudinal changes in Total Arsenic in the Beaver River during the discharge of effluent from GL/GC-RSS in fall 1991 and spring 1993

Although spring effluent was generally of poorer quality than fall effluent, effluent dilution was much greater in spring. As a result, longitudinal changes in river water quality were much less pronounced than in fall, although the concentrations of TP, DP, TKN, NH<sub>3</sub>-N, (NO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>3</sub>)-N, NO<sub>2</sub>-N and F were higher at the Cherry Grove site than at any other site; differences between Ardmore and Beaver Crossing or between Beaver Crossing and Pierceland were extremely slight.

In spring 1993 TC and FC counts were low in most samples from Ardmore and Beaver Crossing, except for TC counts in samples from May 19 which reached 3,200 and 2,100 TC per 100 mL at Ardmore and Beaver Crossing, respectively. Total coliform counts at the Cherry Grove site and at Pierceland were generally much higher than at the two other sites (maximum of 2,800 and 18,000 on May 19 at Cherry Grove and Pierceland, respectively). These high in-stream counts may be related to the discharge of CLGC/RSS wastewater which also contained high bacterial counts.

#### 4.3 MASS LOAD CALCULATIONS

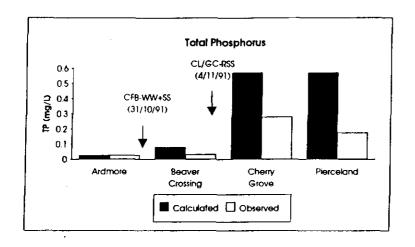
Several of the longitudinal changes in water quality observed in the Beaver River are the results of effluent discharges to the river. To illustrate this point concentrations of selected nutrients [TP and (NO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>3</sub>)-N] and ions (Na<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, and F<sup>-</sup>) measured in the Beaver River were compared with concentrations calculated from instream loads and from effluent loads from wastewater (WW) and storm sewer (SS) discharges from the CFB-Cold Lake and from effluent loads from CL/GC-RSS (see section 2.3 for details). Travel time was taken into account by selecting sets of in-stream data which matched predicted travel time as closely as possible. In-stream concentrations were predicted for 2 series of data in fall 1991:

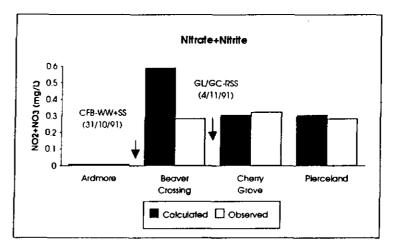
- CL/GC-RSS effluent discharged on Nov. 1 (closest match for effluent data: Nov. 4) was expected to reach the Cherry Grove site Nov. 3 (closest match for in-stream data: Nov. 4) and Pierceland Nov. 7 (closest match for in-stream data: Nov. 12).
- CL/GC-RSS effluent discharged on Nov. 7 (effluent data: Nov. 7) was expected to reach the Cherry Grove site on Nov. 9 (instream data: Nov. 7) and Pierceland on Nov. 12 (instream data: Nov. 12).

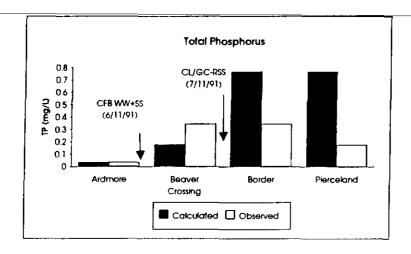
Results are shown in Figures 8 to 9. There is a close correspondence between predicted and measured concentrations for conservative elements (i.e., ions). The higher concentrations of Cl and F measured at Cherry Grove can be explained by ion loads from the CL/GC-RSS discharges. Although the increase in P and  $(NO_2+NO_3)-N$  can be attributed to loads from CFB and CL/GC-RSS, predicted concentrations are usually higher than measured concentrations, because the latter reflects some degree of instream processing and uptake. The CFB-WW outfall with its high  $(NO_2+NO_3)-N$  load explains the large increase in instream concentration of  $(NO_2+NO_3)-N$ , whereas both for the increase in instream TP.

#### 4.4 COMPLIANCE WITH WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES AND OBJECTIVES

Table 9 lists all parameters which were monitored in the Beaver River during this study and which had at least one record which did not comply with the Prairie Provinces Water Quality Objectives (PPWBO), the Alberta Surface Water Quality Guidelines (ASWQG), or the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines (CWQG). The table also provides an indication of frequency of non-compliance.







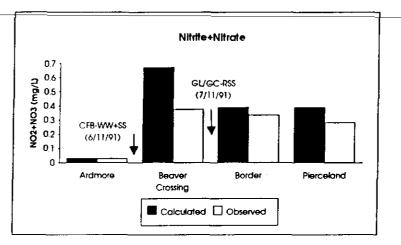
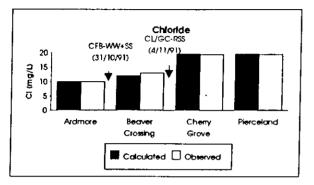
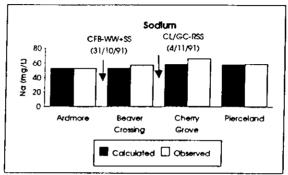
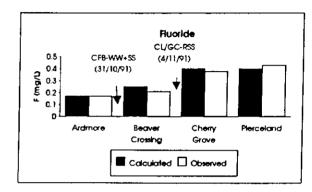
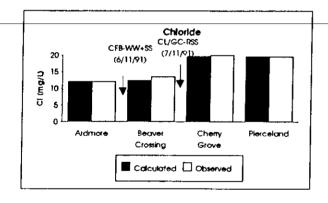


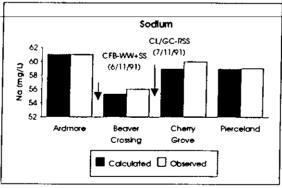
Figure 8: Comparison of Total Phosphorus and Nitrite+Nitrate concentrations measured in the Beaver River with concentrations predicted from upstream loads and from effluent loads











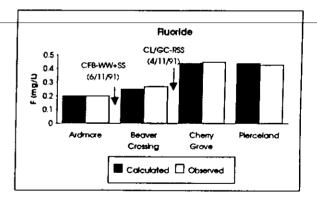


Figure 9. Comparison of chloride, sodium and fluoride concentrations measured in the Beaver River with concentrations predicted from upstream river load and effluent loads

Table 9. Summary of non-compliance with PPWBO, ASWQG and CWQG.

Water Quality Variable	Guideline / Objective value (mg/L)	Ardmore	Beaver Crossing	Cherr Grov	"   Pierceland	Maximum Levels (mg/L) recorded in river and effluents
Cd, Total	PPWBO <sup>(a)</sup> - 0.001 ASWQG <sup>(b)</sup> - 0.01 CWQG-PAL <sup>(c)</sup> - 0.0013 <sup>(a)</sup> 0.0018 <sup>(f)</sup>	2 0 2	2 0 2	2 0 2	2 0 2	- instream non-compliance in fall only - max river: 0.003 - max effluent: 0.003
Cr, Total	PPWBO - 0.011 ASWQG - 0.05 CWQG-PAL - 0.002	0 0 2	0 0 3	0 0 2	0 0 2	- instream non-compliance mostly in fall - max river: 0.006 at Beaver Crossing - max effluent: 0.007 in CFB-SS
Cu, Total	PPWBO - 0.004 ASWQG - 0.02 CWQG-PAL - 0.003 <sup>(e)</sup> 0.004 <sup>(f)</sup>	0 0 0	1 1 1	1 1 1	1 1 1	- instream non-compliance in fall and spring - max river: 0.077 at Border - max effluent: 0.039 CFB-WW
Fe, Total	PPWBO - 1.0 ASWQG - 0.3 CWQG-PAL - 0.3	1 3 3	1 3 3	0 3 3	0 3 3	- instream non-compliance in fall and spring - max river: 1.09 at Ardmore - max effluent: 0.789 in CL/GC-RSS
Mn, Total	PPWBO - 0.2 ASWQG - 0.05 CWQG-PAL - NA	1 2 -	0 2	0 3 -	0 2 -	- instream non-compliance in fall and spring - max river: 0.205 at Ardmore - max effluent: 0.457 CL/GC-RSS
Zn, Total	PPWBO - 0.03 ASWQG - 0.05 CWQG-PAL - 0.03	0 0 0	0 0 0	1 0 1	0 0 0	- instream non-compliance in spring - max river: 0.042 at Border - max effluent: 0.044 CFB-WW
TP	PPWBO - NA ASWQG - 0.045 CWQG-PAL - NA	2	- 3 -	3	3	instream non-compliance in spring and fall     max river; 0.38 at Border     max effluent; 4.63 CL/GC-RSS
TN	PPWBO - NA ASWQG - 1.0 CWQG-PAL - NA	- 0 -	2	3	2	- instream non-compliance in spring and fall - max river: 1.99 at Border - max effluent: 16.43 at CL/GC-WW
Total Coliform	PPWBO - NA ASWQG - see (g) CWQG-REC <sup>d)</sup> - see (h)	- 1 0	- 0 0	1 0	1	- instream non-compliance in spring - max river: 3200 at Ardmore - max effluent: 86,000 in CFB-SS
DO	PPWBO - 6.0< ASWQG - 5.0< CWQG-PAL - 6.0<	2 1 2	1 1 1	1 1 1	1	instream non-compliance in fall     min river: 0 (many samples)     min effluent: 5.7 in CFB-WW, single non-compliance

- a. PPWBO: Prairie Provinces Water Quality Objectives
- b. ASWQG: Alberta Surface Water Quality Guidelines
- c. CWQG-PAL: Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life
- d. CWQG-REC: Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for Aesthetics and Contact Recreation
- e. Value applies at hardness range of 120-180 mg/L
- f. Value applies at hardness >180 mg/L
- g. Geometric mean of 5 samples taken in less than 30 days should be less than 1000 total coliforms, less than 200 fecal coliforms or these numbers should not be exceeded in more than 20% of the samples or no total coliform count should exceed 2400
- h. Geometric mean of not less than 5 samples taken in not more than 30 days should be less than 200 fecal coliforms per 100 mL.
- '0' all samples comply with guidelines or objectives
- '1' less than 20% of samples do not comply
- '2' 20 to 70 % of samples do not comply
- '3' more than 70% of samples do not comply
- 'NA' or '-' no guidelines or objectives

For some water quality variables such as Cu, Cr, TP, and TN, the frequency of non-compliance of river concentrations was higher at Beaver Crossing than at Ardmore. The increase in frequency of non-compliance was related to the high concentrations of these constituents in the CFB-WW or in the CFB-SS effluents.

The frequency of non-compliance of Mn, Zn, TN, and total coliforms was higher at the Cherry Grove site than at Beaver Crossing. Except for Zn, these increases were related to the high concentrations of these constituents in the CL/GC-RSS effluent. Non-compliance to surface water quality guidelines of Zn at Cherry Grove was not related to the effects of the CL/GC-RSS which had very low Zn concentrations. The cause of elevated zinc concentrations at Cherry Grove is not known! High total phosphorus concentrations in the CL/GC-RSS effluent contributed to the continued high level of non-compliance in the Beaver River.

Cadmium, Fe and DO concentrations in the Beaver River frequently did not meet surface water quality guidelines. Apparently this non-compliance is related to natural background conditions rather than to the effects of effluents. Dissolved oxygen in the icecovered Beaver River in November 1991 complied more frequently with guidelines downstream than upstream of effluent discharges, probably because the open leads created by the effluents tend to improve aeration of the river.

#### 4.5 LONG-TERM FLOW PATTERN IN THE BEAVER RIVER AND IMPLICATIONS ON NON-COMPLIANCES

Frequency analysis of monthly flows for October, November, April and May indicate that flows measured in the Beaver River during the monitoring of effects of effluent discharges were exceptionally low (A. DeBoer, Surface Water Assessment Branch, AEP, pers. comm.).

Following is the frequency of return for these flows:

October 1991:

1:125 year low flows

November 1991: 1:200 year low flows

April 1993:

1:24 year low flows

May 1993:

1:11 year low flows

Under these exceptionally low flow conditions, effluent discharges result in noncompliance of several water quality parameters. For a similar effluent load, but average flow conditions, concentrations of most, if not all parameters would comply with surface water quality guidelines. However, even under average flow conditions non-compliance could occur if effluent loads increased.

The anticipation that flows in the Beaver River will return to normal (i.e., longterm average) may reduce the urgency of improving existing wastewater treatment facilities or altering discharge patterns. However, no one can predict when flows will return to normal. The recent drought in east-central Alberta, which is the cause of low flows in the Beaver River, is attributed to unusual weather patterns. The occurrence or duration of such weather patterns cannot be predicted (R. Bothe, Surface Water Assessment Branch, AEP, pers. comm.).

#### 5.0 SUITABILITY OF PPWB MONITORING SITE

Surveys conducted in the Beaver River in fall 1991 and spring 1993 indicate that during the discharge of wastewater from CL/GC-RSS there are differences in water quality between the current monitoring site at Beaver Crossing, and sites downstream of the wastewater effluent outfall. Concentrations of TP, DP, TKN, NH<sub>3</sub>-N, Mg, hardness, Na, K, F, Cl, DOC, conductivity, TDS, SO<sub>4</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub> and total and dissolved As are elevated at Cherry Grove and at the Pierceland site during wastewater discharges from CL/GC-RSS. The CL/GC-RSS outfall induces a higher frequency of non-compliance to surface water quality guidelines in the Beaver River for TN, total coliforms and Mn and contributes to the high incidence of non-compliance of phosphorus.

Water quality differences between Beaver Crossing and sites downstream of the CL/GC-RSS outfall are most noticeable in data collected at very low river discharge (e.g., November 1991 with monthly average of 0.73 m³/s), but they are only slight at higher river discharge (e.g., May 1993 with monthly average of 6.11 m³/s). These findings are concordant with conclusions from the study conducted in 1987 at a river discharge of 2 m³/s which is intermediate to that of fall 1991 and spring 1993 (Nelson 1988). These results indicate that data from the current PPWB long-term monitoring site are least representative of Beaver River water quality that enters Saskatchewan when CL/GC-RSS discharges at low river flows. Although flow conditions in the Beaver River were exceptional (i.e., 1 in 11 to 1 in 200 year low flows) during the monitoring of effects of effluent discharges, there is no way of predicting when, or how long flows will return to normal.

A comparison of PPWB sampling dates at Beaver Crossing with the dates where CLGC-RSS discharges occurred (Table 10) indicates that 6 of 8 PPWB sampling dates coincided with wastewater discharges. On these six dates differences may have occurred between the water quality measured at Beaver Crossing and the quality of water that enters Saskatchewan. Taking river discharge at the time of sampling into consideration one can expect that these differences would have been of the same magnitude as those reported in fall 1991 for 2 of the 6 dates; they would have been smaller for the other 4 sampling dates.

The Regional Planning Commission expects continued population growth in the Cold Lake Beaver River area and is currently planning to expand the existing lagoon system. The effluent volume discharged to the Beaver River is likely to increase and the timing and duration of discharge could change.

In view of these considerations and in order to ensure that data from the long-term PPWB monitoring site represent, at all times of the year and under all flow conditions, the quality of the Beaver River as it enters Saskatchewan, it would be advisable to move the current location to a site downstream of the GL/GC-RSS outfall.

Some practical aspects need to be considered if the PPWB site is to be moved:

The Cherry Grove site and Pierceland are the two logical alternatives for the PPWB monitoring site. Access at the Cherry Grove site could be difficult in winter and in very wet weather. The likelihood that access difficulties could compromise the regularity of the sampling program should be assessed.

Table 10. Comparison of PPWB sampling dates at Beaver River Crossing with effluent discharge dates for CL/GC-RSS.

	SPRING	G	FALL		
YEAR	CL/GC-RSS DISCHARGE	PPWB SAMPLING	CL/GC-RSS DISCHARGE	PPWB SAMPLING	
1989	Apr 3, for 2 to 3 weeks	Apr 26 * 9.51 m <sup>3</sup> /s (1)	Oct 29 till Nov 19	Nov 8 * 3.49 m³/s	
1990	Apr 23 till May 11	May 9 * 11.2 m³/s	Oct 29 till Nov 19	Nov 7 * 1.69 m <sup>3</sup> /s	
1991	Apr 15 till May 3	May 8 6.06 m³/s	Nov 1 till Nov 15	no data 0.730 m³/s	
1992	Apr 20 till May 22	May 6 * 3.33 m³/s	Oct 26 till Nov 16	Nov 4 * 1.30 m³/s	
1993	Apr 26 till May 21	Apr 17 6.11 m³/s	Oct 22 till Nov 12	no date 6.02 m³/s	

Asterisk (\*) identifies PPWB sampling dates which coincide with wastewater discharge (1) Shows the mean monthly discharge in the Beaver River for that month

Note: Exact discharge dates for GL/GC-RSS were unavailable prior to 1989

- The land use between the Alberta/Saskatchewan border and the Pierceland site needs to be documented to ensure that water quality at Pierceland represents the quality of Beaver River water that leaves Alberta.
- Currently, Water Survey Canada monitors river flows at Beaver Crossing and it has been advantageous in water quality assessments to have accurate discharge records and water quality data at the same site. If the PPWB site is moved further downstream it would be desirable to determine how well discharge data from Beaver Crossing fit the new site.

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7.0 APPENDICES

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AFPENDIX I WATER GUALITY DATA : FALL 1991 AND SPRING 1993

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BH +5	<b>et</b> 44 t	A 1A	DO PO	ow us	n)	~	-, -	-41	•	.,		

APPENDIX 1 : continued

DEGLECATION		pate	TEMPERATORE	z	COMPUCTIVITY	OLYON	OLYGER	COLIFORN	COLLFORM	PECAL	
## Bank   11 Oct 1991	EGOD .		:		;	K87 EC	MINTER	TOPAL	HCM	STABP	
## Bank   11 Oct 1991			02061	10101	02041F	061012	116180	No per 100 mi	No per 100 ml No per 100 ml. per 100 ml 26001t 36011t 3611t	36103L	
## Nov 1991    Nov 1991   Nov 199		33 Oct 1883		,	663	10.7	9.01				
## 1911    1 Nov 1991   1 Nov 1		4 Nov 1991	0.0		90		:				
- Comtra  - Comt		5 Nov 1991	•	7.2	613	7.1					
17 Nov 1991   17 Nov 1991   19 Nov 1991		6 Nov 1991	•	3.6	792	9.0					
13 New 1991   12 New 1991   12 New 1991   13 New 1991   14 New 1991   15 New 19W   15 New		7 Nov 1991	7.0	5	79.5	5.7					
1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1		12 Nov 1991	. ·	~ .	95.4	- «					
1		19 Nov 1991	• •	· -		۰,					
### 1993  2.9 Apr 1993  1.2 Key 1993  2.6 Key 1993  2.6 Key 1993  3.1 Occ 1991  3.1 Occ 1991  3.1 Nov 1991  3.2 Apr 1993  3.2 Apr 1993  3.3 Apr 1993  3.4 Key 1993  4.4 Nov 1991  3.5 Key 1993  4.7 Fey 1993  4.7 Fey 1993  5.8 Key 1993  5.8 Key 1993  6.8 Key 1993  7.8 Fey 1993  7.8 Fe		21 Apr 1993	4.3	9.36	308	11.73					
12   Hay 1993		29 Apr 1993	7.33	60 B	342	10.41					
1		5 May 1993	11.16	90.8	420	9.09					
### 1993  26 May 1993  30 Oct 1991  31 Oct 1991  3 Nov 1991  3 Nov 1991  3 Nov 1991  3 Nov 1991  3 May 1993  4 Nov 1991  5 May 1993  5 May 1993  6 Nov 1991  7 Nov 1991  7 Nov 1991  7 Nov 1991  7 Nov 1991  8 Nov 1991  8 Nov 1991  9 Nov 1991  10 May 1993  11 May 1993  12 May 1993  13 Nov 1991  14 May 1993  15 May 1993  16 May 1993  17 Nov 1991  18 Nov 1991  19 Nov 1991  10 May 1991  11 May 1993  11 May 1993  12 May 1993  13 Nov 1991  14 Nov 1991  15 Nov 1991  16 Nov 1991  17 Nov 1991  18 Nov 1991  19 Nov 1991  19 Nov 1991  11 May 1993		12 May 1993	17.23	9 · 0	439	10.4					
10 CCC 1991   10 CCCC 19		19 May 1993	14.4	1.17	181	16.1					
10 Cet 1991		26 May 1993	12.61	B. 19	=	•					
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Nov 1991		4 Nov 1991	0.1	₹.	109	9.		8.7	3		
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1   Nov   1931   12   Nov   1931   13   Nov   1931   19   Nov   1933   10   Nov		6 Nov 1991	٠,	۲.,	39.	9.	<del>;</del>	<b>9</b> :	<b>:</b>		
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13 May 1991  26 May 1991  26 May 1991  5 Nev 1991  10 Nev 1991  11 Nev 1991  12 Mey 1991  29 Apr 1991  20 May 1991  21 May 1991  22 May 1991  24 May 1991  25 Nev 1991  26 May 1991  27 Nev 1991  28 Nev 1991  29 Nev 1991  20 Nev 1991  21 Nev 1991  22 Apr 1993  23 May 1993  24 May 1993  25 May 1993  26 May 1993  27 Nev 1991  28 Nev 1991  29 Nev 1991  29 Nev 1991  20 Nev 1991  20 Nev 1991  20 Nev 1991  21 Nev 1993  22 Apr 1993  23 May 1993  24 May 1993  25 May 1993  26 May 1993  27 New 1993  28 May 1993  29 May 1993  20 May 1993		5 May 1993	11.16	90.8	420	9.03	86.9	5	3	3	
10 Hay 1993  26 May 1993  31 Oct 1991  5 Nov 1991  6 Nov 1991  12 Nov 1991  13 Nov 1991  14 Nov 1991  15 Nov 1991  16 Nov 1991  17 Nov 1991  18 Hay 1993  19 Hay 1993  10 Hay 1993  10 Hay 1993  11 Nov 1991  12 Nov 1991  13 Nov 1991  13 Nov 1991  14 Nov 1991  15 Nov 1991  16 Nov 1991  17 Nov 1991  18 Nov 1991  19 Nov 1993  19 Nov 1993  10 Nov 1993  10 Nov 1993  11 Nov 1993  12 Nov 1993  13 Nov 1993  14 Nov 1993  15 Nov 1993  16 Nov 1993  17 Nov 1993  18 Nov 1993  18 Nov 1993  19 Nov 1993  10 Nov 1993		12 Hay 1993	17.20		*	4	3	9		77	
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7 Nov 1991 1 Nov 1991 1 Nov 1991 1 Nov 1991 29 Apr 1993 29 Apr 1993 1 Hay 1993 2 Apr 199		5 Nov 1991	0	7.4	613	7.2					
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12 Ney 1993 12 Ney 1993 19 Ney 1993 26 Ney 1993 31 Cet 1991 6 Ney 1991 5 Ney 1991 17 Ney 1991 18 Ney 1991 19 Ney 1991 21 Ney 1993 29 Apr 1993 29 Apr 1993 12 Ney 1993 21 Ney 1993 21 Ney 1993 22 Ney 1993 23 Ney 1993 24 Ney 1993 25 Ney 1993 26 Ney 1993 27 Ney 1993 28 Ney 1993 29 Ney 1993 20 Ney 1		29 Apr 1993	7.37	80.0	342	10.47					
15 New 1993  16 New 1993  26 New 1993  7 - right bank 31 Cct 1991  5 New 1991  17 New 1991  17 New 1991  18 New 1991  18 New 1991  21 New 1991  23 Apr 1993  24 Apr 1993  25 Apr 1993  26 Apr 1993  27 New 1993  28 Apr 1993  29 Apr 1993  20 Apr 1993		5 May 1993	11.16	9.04	420	9.1					
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		13 Nov 1991		, <sub>(</sub> ,							
		19 Nov 1991	-0.2	6.9	698	. 0					
		21 Apr 1993	6.51	8.42		11.93					
		29 Apr 1993	₹.05	9.16		10.74					
		5 May 1993	16.5	8.18		10.22					
		12 May 1993	20.81	36		10.53					
		26 May 1933	13.61	77.0		9.0					
		*** ***	:			¥0.6					

			,	Very	OXYGEN	OXYGEN	COLLFONE	COLIFORM	PECAL	
STATION	Date.	TEMPERATURE				WI HT LA	POTAL	TICAL.	STARP	
		DEG.C 02961P	10101	US/CH 02041F	02 08101P	08101L	No per 100 ML N 36001L	36011C	161011	
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seaver hiver at Beaver Crossing - Centre	30 Oct 1991	7.0	2	756	2 2		6	•		
00ALG6AD4600	1000 1001	:	•				7.7	•		
	31 Oct 1991			;		,	* م	. :		
	4 Nov 1991	• «		7 G	9	6 35	2 0	3		
	5 Nov 1991	6,0-		808	6.3	6.01	54	<u>.</u>		
	7 Nov 1991	-0.3	7.4	612	٠.	<b>3</b>	2 6	<b>:</b> :		
	12 Nov 1991	-0.2	7.1	760		7	2 0	; :		
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	5 Key 1993	14.93	61.19	437	10 33	10.26	<b>3</b> :	Ξ.	<del>-</del> :	
	12 May 1993	20.79	8.35	<b>8</b> C .	• . 0 .	9. 9	90.0		: •	
	19 Mey 1943 26 Mey 1993	15.05	9. 36	463	¥ 49.	? <del>.</del> .	27.7	~ ~	. o.	
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Beaver River at Beaver Crossing . Left Bank	31 Oct 1991	T. o	ر- بر ره بر	753	5 . C					
00AL06AD4005	4 Nov 1991	• •	7.7	850	9.9					
	6 Nov 1991	-0.3	7.4	79.5	6.5					
	7 Nov 1991	0.5	<del>-</del> ,	215						
	12 Nov 1991	-0.5		376						
	19 Nov 1991	7.0		9.10						
	21 Apr 1993	6.51	<del>-</del>	303	11.97					
	29 Apr 1993		6.17	332	10.67					
	5 May 1993	20.06		442	5					
	14 May 1993	15.08	22.0	774	9.42					
	26 May 1993	13.4	6.29	193	₹9.6		-			
			,	7.07	10.7					
Beaver Flydr at Border - Algar mank	4 Nov 1993		2	178	1.9					
	5 Nov 1991	٥	7.3	818	7.1					
	6 Nov 1991	E .	- 1	910						
	7 Nov 1991		n r	478						
	12 Nov 1991	7	-	796						
	19 Nov 1991	7.0	7.1	<b>304</b>	3.3					
	2) Apr 1993	7.37	•	107	12.13					
	29 Apr 1993	<b>G</b> :	8.16	351	2 2					
	5 Kmy 1993	19.49	,	957	11.6					
	19 May 1993	16.24	~	376	11.47					
	26 May 1993	13.5	8.27	067						
and the months of the months o	30 Oct 1991	-0.2	7.3	157	12	11.34				
00ALD6AD5000	31 Oct 1991	-0-		705	10.4	10.41	2 :	<u>.</u>		
	4 Nov 1992		7	956		9		;		
	5 Nov 1991*		•	•			12	12		
	5 Nov 1991"			;	•	;	28	. :		
	6 Nov 1991			979		5.82	50	: :		
	12 Nov 1991	7.0-	7.3	213	3.5	3 24	1.5	3		
	13 Nov 1991	-0.1	7.5	795			32	<b>:</b> :		
	19 Nov 1991	7.35	. 9	30.7	12.15	27.11	<u> </u>	3	3	
	29 Apr 1993	8 . 42	6.15	35.2	11.01	11.18	110	3	÷:	
	5 May 1993*	13.29	6.33	<b>1</b> 54	11.92	11.7	430	<u>.</u>	<b>.</b>	
	5 May 1993						530	<u>:</u>	1	
	12 May 1993	19.45	97.6	433	11 6	11.53	410	17.	<u>.</u>	
	19 May 1993	16.24	6.2	490	9.64	9 61	620	502	: 3	
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MAGUADAT CODS  MARANET NIVER EL BOX - Left Bank  ODALOGADSONS		DEG. C 02961F	10301	METHER US/CH 02 02041P 08101P	02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 0	02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 0	TOTAL No per 100 ml N 36001L	PECAL 5 Per 100	######################################
7									
3									
	11 Oct 1981	7.0	7.2	502	10.0				
	4 Nov 1991	•	7.7	078	7.9				
	5 Nov 1991	•	7.3	625	۲				
	6 Nov 1991	-6.3	2.5	613					
	7 Nov 1991	-0.3	• .	427	•				
	12 Nov 1991	•		810	er :				
	13 Nov 1991	٠,	• (	6					
	1661 NOV 181		7	50,					
	20 452 1993			2	41.01				
	2 Mar. 1993				10.10				
	12 Mary 1003	73.67		: :	11.70				
	14 New 1983	16.51							
	26 May 1993	; z	27	067					
			,	:	;				
Beaver River at Plerceland - Bight Bank	31 Oct 1991	-0.3	90 ~	(99	12.3				
0SA06A D0991	1861 AON P	•	1.3	862	•				
	5 Nov 1991	-0.3	<u>-</u>	835	7.6				
	6 Nov 1991	-0.1	7.4	832	7.1				
	7 Nov 1991	-0.1	3.5	<u>~</u> 78	ş.6				
	15 Nov 1991	•	7.2	842	9.6				
	13 Nov 1991		~ .	61.7					
	I Mov 1991	7 0		516	-				
	21 Apr 1993	5.3	6 Y	135	12.4				
	29 Apr 1993	9. Ce	e :	956					
	5 May 1993	13.00		3	12.48				
	12 May 1993	707		4 2 4	27				
	26 May 1993	14.18	· •	0 0 0	10.24				
	?			;					
burver Stree or Pierceland - dester	30 Oct 1881	7	7.4	1112	17.8	12.33			
00SA06AD1000	31 Oct 1991	-0.3	7.8	656	12.4	11.56	92	-	
	4 Nov 1991	۰		963	6.3	7.	02	~	
	5 Nov 1991	~		633	9.6	•	20	1	
	1991 a	7.0-		635	٠,	25.9	58	3	
	TAGE AND C	-	- 1	7	٠	- :	D.,	<b>-</b> '	
	12 Nov 1991	•	7.7	*		3.56	; ه		
	12 Nov 1991						<u>:</u> •	.:	
	13 Nov 1991	0.2	~	9.6	4	:	• 2	: :	
	19 Nov 1991	7.0-	7	916	-	66.39	2.5	,	
	21 Apr 1993	57.1	65.9	335	12.43	12.09	11	-	
	29 Apr 1993	96 3	8.37	358	12.24	12.3	15	•	3
	5 May 1993	12.99	6.63	745	12.51	12.42	25.0	.4.	
	12 May 1993	20.15	9.74	456	12.3	12.08	150	3	ŗ.
	TO MAY 1993	16.61	8.55	386	10.83	10 11	1600	36	77
	TO MANY LANDS						0061	• ;	۰
	26 MAY 1993		4			9	1001	2 :	÷ ,
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Beaver Miver at Pierceland - Left Bank	31 Oct 1991	-0.4	7.9	702	12.4				
SA06AD1005	4 Nov 1991	0	7.3	863	6.7				
	5 Nov 1991	-0.2		9	7.5				
	6 Nov 1991	-0.7	7.4	Š	7.1				
	7 Nov 1991	4.0	3,6	3	9.6				
	12 Nov 1991	-	7.5	=	•				
	13 Nov 1991	<b>-</b>	-	=	7.3				
	19 Nov 1991	-0.5		915	۴. ۲				
	21 Apr 1993	9 ;	9.61	333	12.42				
	29 Apr 1993	5.12	8.37	159	12.2				
	5 May 1993	13.11	9.0	7	12.51				
	12 May 1993	20.37	9.76	156	12.39				
	26 May 1993			5 6 6	10.89				

			•	CONTRACTIVITA	0	OTTO	COLIPORN	COLVEGER	
HADDADAT CODE	i		!		1	MINICH	TOTAL	T CAL	01111
		D. 030		US/CM	05	05	No per 100 mL	per 100 mt No per 100 mt. per 100 mt	per 100
		92061P	10301	020412	261015	091011	360016	360112	361016
OFC Cold Lake Mastewater Birluent	31 Oct 1991	10.2	* 9	501	5.3		L16.	L10.	
21AL06AC0500	4 Nov 1991	10.8	۲	507	-		•	-	
	5 Nov 1991	10.3	6.9	506	-		L10.	110.	
	6 Nov 1991	9.7	7.1	161	•	H.32	110.	110.	
	7 Nov 1991	8.6	•	161	~	H 22	110	110.	
	12 Nov 1991	10.4	<b>6</b> .9	787			L10.	110.	
	19 Nov 1991	10.0	۴	767	7.6		L10.	L10.	
	19 Nov 1991	10.2	6 9	514	5 <b>.</b>		L10.	L10.	
	21 Apr 1993	10.14	7.42	555	8.52	7.9	10	L10.	110.
	29 Apr 1993	10.34	7.2	675	8.67	11	01	L10.	
	5 May 1993	11.0	7.1	531	7	7 89	9	01	Í
	12 May 1993	14.41	۲	530	5.98		260	91	3
	19 May 1993	11.9	6.93	549	5.72		T30.	110.	<u>;</u>
	26 May 1993	12.44	9.6	768	<b>(</b> )		9.	110.	፤
Cold Lake / Grand Centre Wastewater Effluent	11 0ct 1991						36	10	
21AL06AD4600	4 Nov 1991	1.9	7.7	777	11.9		L10.	110	
	5 Nov 1991	1.1	1 1	181	17.1		01	170	
	6 Nov 1991	-:	3,6	\$1.T	11.3		110	110.	
	7 Nov 1991	1.9	0	57.	12.7		01	L10.	
	12 Nov 1991	7.7	7.6	807	* 11		110	L10.	
	13 Nov 1991	~	3.6	821	11.4		34000	4500	
	21 Apr 1993	1.29	1 95	875	10.01		3809	09	10
	29 Apr 1993	12.54	6.13	919	10.16		60000	320	9
	5 Kay 1993	17.25	8 68	698	6.43		6200	Ç	10
	12 Key 1993	16.37	e +	140	8.8		15000	30	;
	18 May 1993								
CPC Cold Lake Storm Sever	31 Oct 1991	6.9	٦ ،	533	91		7600	100	
23AL06AC1000	6 Nov 1991						7400	20	
	21 Apr 1993	5.53	80 <b>e</b>	245	11.33	11	58000	11000	720
	29 Apr 1993	5.27	7 83	568	11.29	11.36	7900	2000	9
	S May 1993	-	*	101	7 77	77.17	70000	00009	63
	12 May 1993	6.45	7.83	287	11.05	11.19	00090	25000	36
		6.53	7 82	609	11.03	11.38	1406	110	12
	26 May 1993	6.74	7.83	614	10.83	10.56	430	33	97