

AWC News Release – April 25, 2023

Today, Alberta Newsprint Company notified the Athabasca Watershed Council about a small unplanned release to the Athabasca River. Alberta Newsprint Company, located in Whitecourt, is a founding partner and Board Member of the Athabasca Watershed Council and is committed to the Council's vision and mission, as well as its values of transparency and open communications.

The amount of the release is estimated as approximately 500 litres (equivalent to about five bathtubs or 1/3 the volume of a typical hot tub). Due to the release being a very low volume of treated effluent, there is no risk to human health, aquatic life or water quality. There were no contaminants of concern in the release.

The event occurred when maintenance on a piece of equipment led to an unplanned release of treated effluent. This incident is currently under investigation. Alberta Environment and Protected Areas was informed shortly after discovering the release. Alberta Newsprint Company will continue to work with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas to ensure that human health, aquatic life and water quality in the Athabasca River is protected. They will also continue to provide updates to the Council as required.

For more information, please contact:

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