



## **Metadata Citation Information**

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(week February 12-22, 2007)

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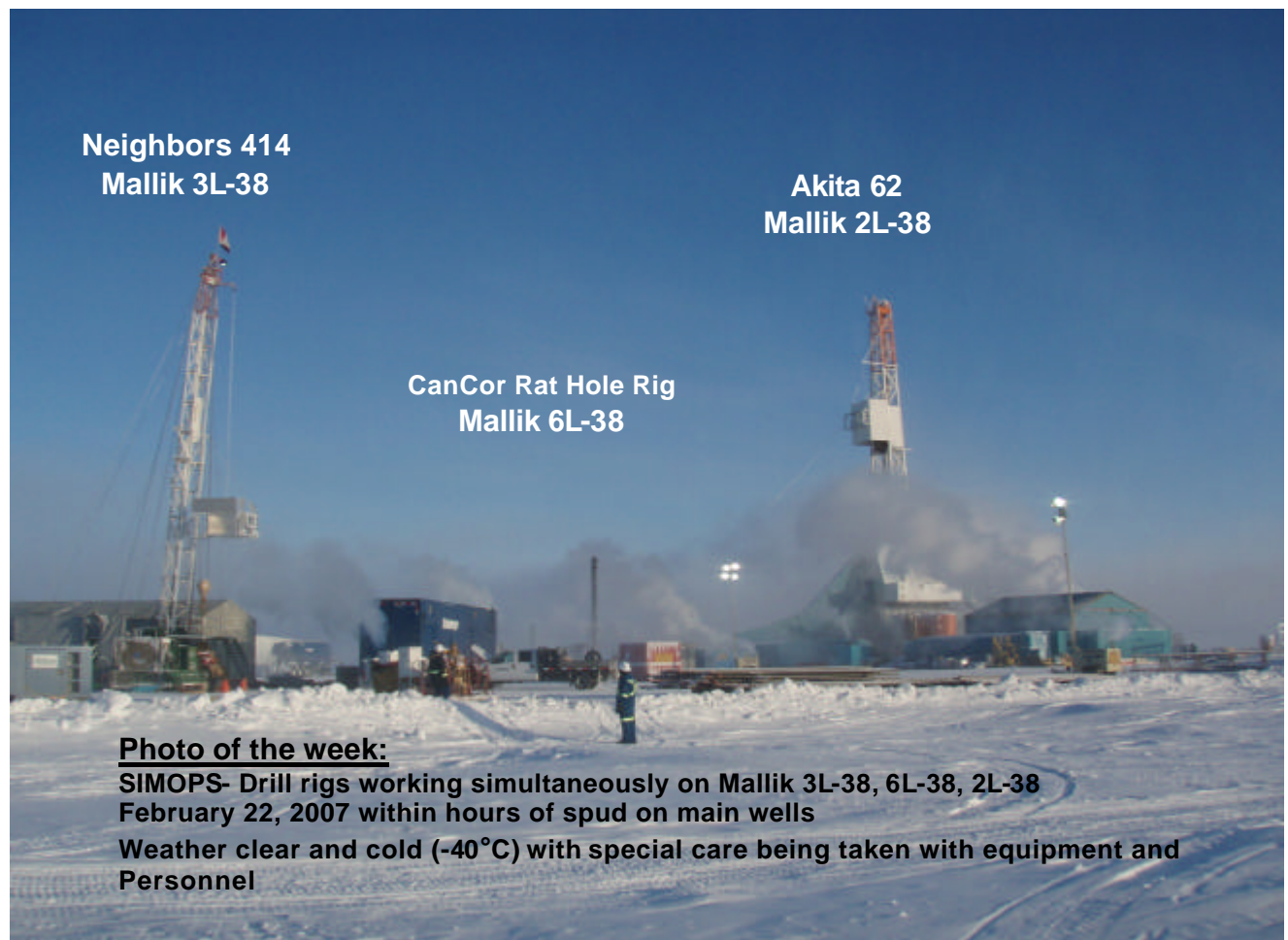
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Unedited technical report as provided by lead NRCan  
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## MALLIK WEEKLY SCIENCE REPORT # 2

<b>Week:</b>	<u>February 12-22, 2007</u> (sorry a little late this week with report!)	<b>Weekly weather:</b> <u>Clear and cold (-33 to -44°C)</u> Sun rising about 10:30 setting about 6:00
<b>Science Supervisor:</b>	<u>Scott Dallimore</u>	
<b>Scientists on site:</b>	<u>Drill site:</u> Nixon, Dallimore (GSC); Nakamizu (JOGMEC) <u>Inuvik:</u> Taylor (Aurora); Sugiyama, Cho, Sakiyama (JOGMEC)	
<b>Operations:</b>	<u>Drill site:</u> Mizuta (JOGMEC), Moitoi (Japex)	



#### Camp synopsis:

- During the past week between 70 and 105 very well fed souls have been on site contributing to the preparation of equipment for drilling equipment.

#### Well site operations activities:

- This 10 day week has served up a number of challenges to the operations and management teams. The 'just in time' management protocol (perfected for this project over the past months) was in place once again delivering the National Energy Board permits/authorities on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Appreciation is extended to those involved in the entire permitting process. Shortly after receiving the permits on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> the pre-spud meetings were held for Mallik 2L and 3L-38. The pre-spud meeting is the rehearsal of the drilling program and a chance for the 25-30 supervisors and lead hands to talk about issues like procedures, safety and contingencies.
- Crews on the Akita 62 (the main drilling rig) and Neighbours 414 (the completion rig) have worked very hard during the past 10 days to ready drill rigs for operations at Mallik 2L-8 and L-38. Both wells are to be re-entry wells which involve accessing pre-existing casing installed in 1998 and 2002. A challenge at the best of times, the old well heads must be excavated and set up for new drilling activities. One particular challenge for both wells was welding on the casing bowls to the old casing and undertaking a successful pressure test. Mallik 2L-38 required four tries, but on the fourth success was had. Mallik 3L-38 required three tries.
- As this report is written both wells are quickly moving towards spud and the beginning of drilling operations. Considerable care is taken by both crews at this stage of operations as full drill rig inspections are carried out and the Blow Out Diverters (BOPs) and all ancillary equipment are tested. Both wells are expected to begin within 24 hours with activities initially dedicated to drilling out the permafrost casing cement and abandonment plugs left in the old wells.
- A rare occurrence on a drilling lease happened late in the week with the arrival of a third drilling rig on site. The CanCor rathole rig (small drilling mast barely visible on the photo of the week) is tasked with completing the cellar and conductor casing for Mallik 6L-38 which is where the main drilling rig will move after completing Mallik 2L-38 operations. This 'small' rig had a huge 42" plus auger and quickly and efficiently went about its business.

#### Science report:

- All good teams require a 'quarterback' to run operations. For Al Taylor, the quarterback for the science team in Inuvik, the past week has been spring training, the regular season and the playoffs all wrapped into one. Al is the operations manager for Andrew Applejohn and our Operator interface with Aurora Research Institute/Aurora College. This week Al has dealt with regulatory filings, science logistics, office equipment, PPE (personal protective equipment) and spill reporting as well as getting adjusted to life in Inuvik. Al is uniquely talented to face the job at hand as he has considerable experience as a leading geothermics specialist and somehow he can also put up with Scott and his schemes and activities. Michelle Skanes has also joined Al in Inuvik and in the coming weeks scientists will we are sure all will find her to be a fantastic go to person for attending to science needs in Inuvik.
- A significant science event this week was the entry of 10-12 Japanese scientist to Canada under the special category of 'visiting VIP scientist working with the Geological Survey of Canada on a high priority R&D project'. You see each scientist has a fancy letter from Scott declaring their

unique role and value to Canada!.. So far 8 made it with through customs in Vancouver with the royal treatment, but strangely two of the key people Yasuda and Imasato-sans had to make a special trip to Immigration to declare the purpose of their visit. Fortunately they cleared Customs without incident. That is one dozen Japanese scientists en route Mallik, now only another two dozen or so to go!

### Geology & Geophysics

- Nixon and Dallimore's worked at the drill site this week to prepare for science operations. The science team has been given a very luxurious office directly across from the JOGMEC operations office. Mark and Scott cannot believe the comfort of the facilities compared the sometimes spartan working conditions they have experienced together over the past 20 years. Office work went very well, however geology and geophysics activities focussed mainly on understanding why there was some flowing water entering the cellar of Mallik 6L, and in investigating the geological deposits left by small spills of sewage from the drill camp.

-The G&G team was pleased to have senior geologist (he is one year older than Scott) Nakamizu-san arrive at the drill rig late in the week. Nakamizu-san will team with Takayama to undertake a cuttings logging program and also serve as the JOGMEC client witness during the first open hole logging runs on 2L-38 and 3L-38. Other members of the G&G team were staging in Calgary where meetings were held with wireline specialists to discuss data transfer and processing plans

### Production

- The production team continues to fine tune the completion and production program working closely with IPM staff in the field and in Calgary. As mentioned last week equipment is presently either in Calgary or at the well site.

### Monitoring-



The monitoring hit team of Sugiyama, Cho, and Sakiyama have been busy all week in Inuvik testing and readying a diverse suite of technical equipment field deployment. These scientists have shown considerable adaptability and have gone about their work as keen professionals trying to enjoy their experience in the north. Brian Cho has written an insightful email to his colleagues in Japan which has many practical tips for all planning to travel to the site. A clip of his email is copied below (thanks Brian!).

## Excerpt from Brian Cho email of Feb 21

*I recall my thoughts of that first moment we stepped off the airplane at Inuvik airport. The air was cold the wind was crisp and the sun was bright. We were exhausted from the long journey from Japan but excited about what we came to do in this new place so far north. We snapped several pictures on the tarmac recognizing this was one of those rare first time moments. It's very exciting to know that we are working literally and figuratively at the frontier of science. We are finally at the point of executing what we all worked so hard to develop, plan and build for the past two years. It's almost time to bring all these exciting technologies to fruition. We hope everyone feels this same excitement for the challenges we have ahead of us.*

*The first impression of Mallik was equally refreshing. This site in the middle of nowhere, the size of the rig and the camp is amazing. Considering the efforts it took the 6 of us on the science team to measure one joint of yellow jacket casing at -35C, it is truly astonishing what they have built here at these low temperatures. The camp is well organized, very warm, great food and super clean (like a ryokan without the tatami mats). On our day visit, we left Inuvik 4:30 am and arrived on site at 7:30 am just in time to catch the sunrise through Mizuta-san's office (see some photos attached). The drive on the ice road was more interesting than I had imagined. We stopped on the ice road to experience the freezing air and to stare at the sky (two minutes outside the van was enough). We saw the famous Aurora Borealis and the bright planet Venus. Note the day trip does not have to be this exact schedule... we will work out a better schedule.*

*On the practical note, here are some do's and don'ts:*

- Do bring clean comfortable indoor shoes to wear inside the camp (even for day trips)*
- Do bring mitten gloves instead of finger gloves*
- Do wear thin gloves under you mittens, useful if you want to write or take pictures*
- Do wear your head covering (included in PPE) if you want to stay outside more than a minute*
- Do wear flexible clothing under your parka if you want to walk like man not machine*
- Do wear your parka, bib pants and arctic boots to the worksite (get a hardhat from ARI)*
- Do bring your favorite shirt and pants you can wear it every day, just change your underwear, pack light*
- Don't need your coveralls (except Vanessa and Houshuyama-san since we will work in Inuvik)*
- Don't need safety shoes because we have composite arctic boots*
- Do bring warm shoes (trekking shoes or boots) to wear around Inuvik it's very cold and icy*
- Do bring Canadian cash if want to take taxi, they charge by number of heads in the car*
- Do bring a camera, it really does work at -30C if you keep it close to your body heat most of the time*
- Do bring enough chapsticks and lotion, it's very dry*
- Do bring a good book to read on your off time*
- Do bring your exercise shoes, if you like to run on tread mill or work out on bow flex at the camp*
- Do bring your swimming suits, if you like to swim at the Inuvik recreation center pool*
- Do bring your sense of adventure, I'll tell you when you get here what I have in mind, I need some volunteers*
- Do check in with the medic first thing at the wellsite, don't leave the wellsite without seeing the medic last thing*
- Don't carry ink pens, they do not work very well at -30C*
- Don't cover your mouth if your want to see. Your glasses will frost up. May help to put on glasses once you're outside*
- Don't smoke but if you must there is a small smoking room, I don't think you're allowed to smoke outside (not sure) anyways it's too cold*