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Weekly Science Report #3
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Unedited technical report as provided by lead NRCan
scientist. It is included here as background program
documentation only.

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MALLIK

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+26 hearty souls at weeks end continuing to build our lease.

WEEKLY WEATHER

The weather has been stable for most of the week, warming slightly on the coast to a comfortable -30 to -35°C during the day at Mallik. Temperatures in Inuvik were colder this which is unusual. With temperatures about -40°C during the evenings, Al Taylor was housebound at Aurora Lodge during this year's annual lantern ski at the Inuvik Ski Club. For those who don't know Al, he is easy to recognize on the ski trails as he has the longest skis north of 60.

We are now in the mobilization phase of our program and thus we are keeping a close eye on trucks transporting our equipment from southern Canada to Mallik. As of Feb 11, eyes are on weather in the Richardson Mountains as the Dempster Highway is closed at Eagle Plains. The Environment Canada weather forecast can be cryptic at times leaving the user to do some guess work. Today's alert seems clear however with the weather reasonable in most places in the Inuvik area, except the Richardson mountains!

Issued 11.00 AM PST Monday 11 February 2008

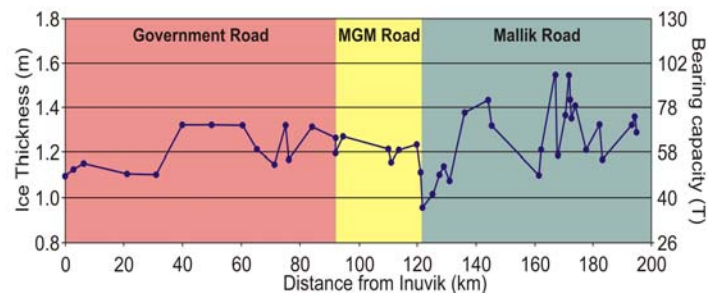
Blizzard warning in effect.

Today: Flurries, except blizzard near the Richardson mountains. Wind east 40 km/h except 70 gusting to 90 near the Richardson mountains. Temperature steady near minus 28. Extreme wind chill minus 52. Frostbite in minutes.

Tonight: Flurries except blizzard near the Richardson mountains. Wind east 40 km/h, except 70 gusting to 90 near the Richardson mountains. Temperature steady near minus 28. Extreme wind chill minus 50. Risk of frostbite.

FIELD OPERATIONS

MALLIK ICE ROAD - One of the strategies to optimize field work this year was to choose our start date as late as possible to allow for natural ice growth. Many of you will have seen Michelle Côté's weekly email weather recaps and estimates of ice growth based on a calculated freezing indices. This week we were able to check her predictions by carrying out a 197 km long radar survey of our entire ice road between Inuvik and Mallik. As shown in the figure below, things have shaped up very well with more than a metre of ice along the entire Mallik road allowing us safe transportation of up to 40,000 kg loads.



Radar profile from Inuvik to Mallik collected on February 8th

MALLIK LEASE - E. Grubens Transport deserves a great deal of praise for their excellent work on the Mallik ice pad. Their equipment is running well, their crews are motivated and well supervised. The GSC has a fair bit of experience building ice roads and pads, and frankly Mark and Scott were really worried about getting this task done on schedule. A word of thanks also to Jerry McEachern our Aurora logistics manager, Fred, Kevin, and Gerrardo who have all been keeping an eye on progress and helping Garfield keep on track.



Photo montage of Mallik lease area looking northwest. Camp area is to left, main operations area including Mallik 2L and 3L well site is to the right, 30,000 m² of pad area will be required with an average of 20 cm of ice cover. Status as of February 11th could not be better: Camp area 100% complete; 3L Pad area 100% complete; 2L Pad area 90% complete; Flare Pad 3 days to go.

THE MALLIK TRUCKS ARE ROLLING!

Over the past month contractors have been readying our drilling, testing and completion equipment for transportation. Each shipment is carefully planned to optimized loads and delivery of equipment to Mallik just on time. Jill and Heather at BBB Expediting in Edmonton are our logistics providers tracking all equipment movement. As of the end of business on February 11th, BBE are tracking 16 trucks from 6 different carriers all moving to Inuvik on the Alberta, BC, Yukon and NWT road network. An additional 30 loads of gear are in Inuvik already. BBE estimates one million pounds of Mallik equipment will be moved in the next four days. The challenge however is managing our inventory of equipment. In the past 24 hrs our loads are distributed as follows:

- 6 departed Edmonton and are in N. Alberta/BC
- 2 are in Yukon moving towards the Dempster
- 6 are held up in blizzard conditions at Eagle Plains on the Dempster
- 4 just arrived in Inuvik
- 4 trucks working on the Inuvik to Mallik ice road starting the camp move

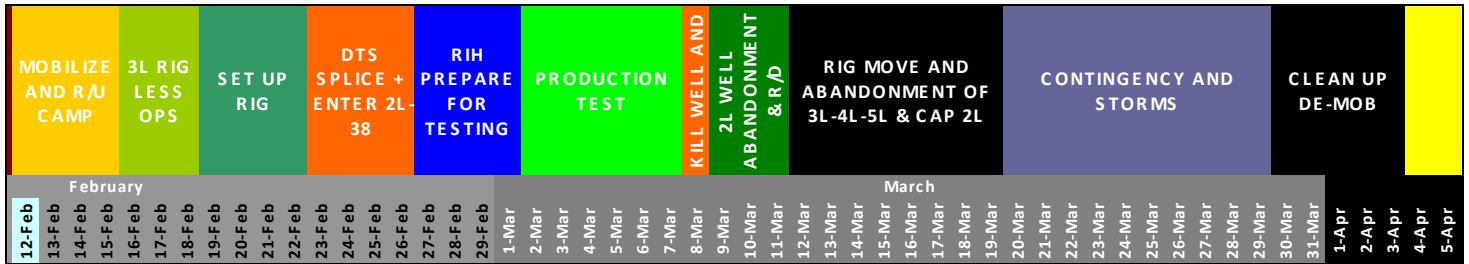


Critical carrier unit for Nabors service rig being loaded in Nisku, Alta.



3240 km logistics route via Alberta, BC, Yukon, NWT highway system to Inuvik and 190 km ice road to Mallik

A Mallik media alert has also been on this week as we have approximately 20 personnel from the History Channel in Inuvik beginning filming of their popular *Ice Road Trucker* series. The History channel will run two episodes on Mallik ice road trucking and mobilization efforts using their in-truck remote cameras and their four chase vehicles. The Mallik operations team has offered Sandy Osborne, a seasoned northerner who is a truck driver herself (even if it is just a Toyota truck), as a GNWT liaison to travel with the truckers.



Mallik weekly planner... to be taken w it with a large grain of salt!

NEXT WEEK AT MALLIK

The next week will see the start of full field operations, with mobilization of our 65 drill camp and re-entry activities on the Mallik 3L water injection well and the Mallik 2L production well. The weekly activity planner given above is very much from an operations point of view, working on the most optimistic timelines assuming all tasks fall into place without impediment. With a research and development program like ours, there is always an inevitable tension between operations folks (and our accountants) who are task-oriented and frankly looking to get to the end of the program on time and on budget. R&D folks on the other hand are looking at the big picture and for us the big picture is to optimize testing. So our job will be to work closely together to solve problems and reach our mutual goals successfully. A pragmatic reality check is always handy however. Scott got one last year when our well site supervisor Bill reminded him that scientists should always keep in mind the well known reverse correlation between the number of post-graduate degrees and common sense.

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