

BC HYDRO OPERATIONS - ICE OBSERVATION REPORT 38

Flight: Friday April 6, 2007
Report: April 10, 2007
Report by Dale Bairstow and Martin Jasek

The responsibility for ice observations on the Peace River passes to BC Hydro from Alberta Environment (AENV) when the ice front is upstream of Dunvegan. That responsibility was transferred on February 2, 2007. The numbering of reports is a continuation of the AENV reports.

Flight Observations by Dale Bairstow

A flight was attempted in the afternoon of April 3 but due to poor weather the aircraft was not able to get to the ice front. The flight was conducted as far downstream as km 209 where 10% ice concentration of newly formed frazil pans was noted. The minimum air temperature that morning at the Ft. St. John Airport had been - 21° C and during the flight it was about -10° C.

Another flight observation was conducted out of Ft. St. John Airport on Friday April 6, 2007. Air temperature at the airport was - 7° C. The weather during the flight was a mix of sun and cloud.

Ice Observations

Location of the Ice Front: The ice front had receded 4.7 km downstream since the last observation on March 31 and was located at **km 223.5 on Apr 6, 2007, 10:30 MDT**. This was approximately 73 km upstream of Dunvegan or about 60 km downstream of the Clayhurst Bridge near the BC/AB border. The recession rate of the ice front between the last two observations was about 0.8 km/day. Since the last flight, daily low temperatures at the Fort. St. John Airport had been between -7 and -21 °C with daily highs between from 0 to -8 °C.

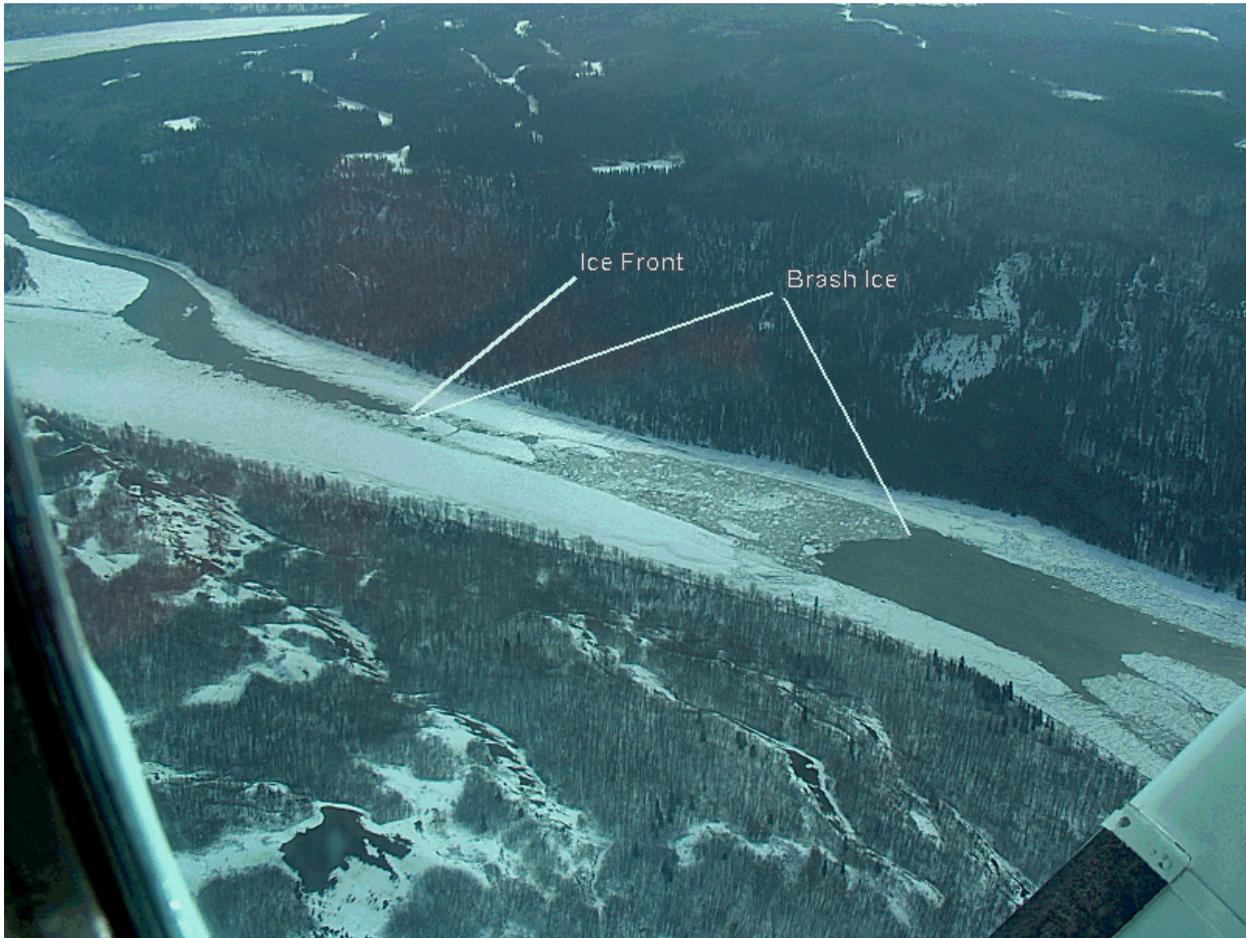
Detailed Observations:

km 223.2 to 223.5	- there was about 300 m of brash ice upstream of the ice front
km 223.5	- ice front on Apr 6, 10:30 MDT
km 223.5 to 223.7	- lead in main channel starting almost immediately downstream of ice front (Brash held in place by a small amount of deteriorated ice and narrowing of the channel and shore ice).
km 224.5 to 229.0	- narrow leads in right side channel at Many Islands*
km 227 to 228.8	- narrow deteriorated cover in main channel
km 229.0 to 231.0	- right channel open and then lead cut across to left bank at km 231*
km 231 to 231.7	- lead along left bank widens in downstream direction to full channel width at km 231.7*
km 231.7 to 243.1	- ice cover appears intact*
km 243.1 to 244.1	- narrow lead*
km 244.1 to 256	- ice cover appears intact*

* Same as March 31 flight



Shore ice upstream of the ice front at km 219. (Looking downstream).



Ice front at km 223.5 and upstream end of brash ice at km 223.2. (Flow is right to left). Lead starting immediately downstream of ice front and continuing downstream into right channel at Many Islands.



Open leads in right channel at Many Islands (km 224.5 to 229.0) and in main channel from km 229.0 to 231.7. (Looking downstream).

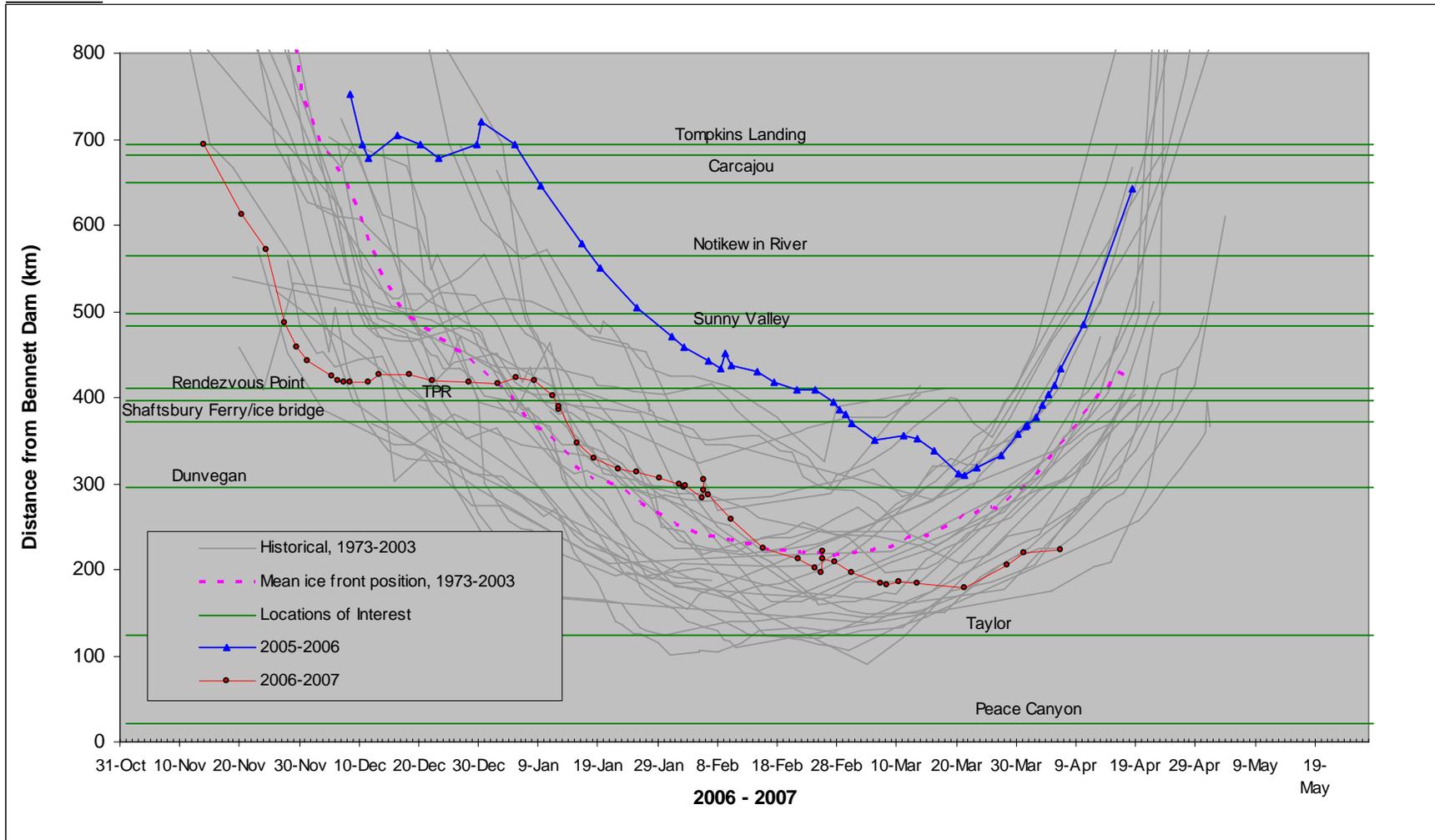


Narrow deteriorated cover in main channel at km 227 to 228.8 (Looking downstream). Leads in right channels at Many Islands

Environment Canada Forecast temperatures (°C)			
		Fort St. John	Town of Peace River
		Max/Min	Max/Min
Tue	10-Apr-07	9 / 4	3 / 1
Wed	11-Apr-07	8 / -1	5 / 0
Thr	12-Apr-07	9 / -4	6 / -8
Fri	13-Apr-07	8 / -3	8 / -7
Sat	14-Apr-07	8 / 2	7 / -1
Normal Max/Min		8 / -2	9 / -3

Continued next page.

Ice Front



The next ice flight is scheduled for Wednesday morning, April 11.