



OMC Winter Road report for January 16th to 22nd, 2016

As stated in my most recent road condition update, our target is to still open the road on February 1st to 28th of ice. We are experiencing some challenges on McKay Lake but feel confident that we will be able to continue to build ice and complete portage development in time for the target opening date. Naturally, this will be dependent on the continuance of cold temperatures and not having any storms. I will have a better idea of where we are at on January 27th – 28th, 2016 after conducting a tour of the full length of the road.

General Summary

Over the past seven days, weather conditions have remained constant over the majority of the region. Nuna construction crews continue to make good progress in ice sheet assessments and road construction. Profiling teams continue to identify target specific areas for flooding operations. All lakes along the main route have been cleared to full width, less MacKay Lake.

Dome Lake Segment (120 km)

Profiling continues to progress along the Dome Lake area of the project. Current ice thickness south of Dome Lake Maintenance camp ranges from 24"-31" along the center-line. Minimum ice thickness north of the Dome Lake Maintenance camp ranges from 17"-28". Profiling crews continue to mark areas of slow ice growth for follow-up targeting of flooding operations. Plow crews have completed the main and express lanes to full width. Portage work from the southern boundary of Dome Lake to the Ingraham Trail continues to progress well. Crews are working on the final portages from P20 to P25. Flood crews will continue to target thin ice areas identified by the profiling team. There is a small section of ice on High Grade (HG1), P4-1 and P18-1 that requires some flooding attention, this will be attended to over the next couple of days.

Lockhart Lake Segment (165 km)

Minimum Ice thickness south of Lockhart Lake Maintenance camp ranges from 19"-28" along the center-line. Minimum ice thickness north will be re-assessed over the next few days. Profiling crews continue to mark areas of slow ice growth for follow-on flooding operations. Plow crews have cleared the main lane within the south and north segment of Lockhart area. They are now focussed on the southern portion of MacKay

Lake. Portage crews are finishing the ramps on P-46 and are now moving north. The second portage crew is working on P32.

Lac de Gras Segment (135km)

Minimum Ice thickness north of Lac De Gras Maintenance camp ranges from 25.5"-30" along the center-line. Although the full length of this segment has not been fully verified, minimum ice thickness south of the Lac De Gras camp ranges from 20"-30". The team continues to develop the ice north of P55 to Diavik to support camp operations. Plow crews continue to make advances along MacKay Main route. Portage construction continues south from Lac de Gras. The crew is focus on building the parking base layer on P49. Flood crews will start to target areas identified by profiling.

YK Dispatch

The YK Dispatch office continues to support road operations and prepare for road opening.

Next Seven Days

The main effort for the next seven days will be clearing the loaded lane along MacKay Lake to full width, final construction of all portages, and continued flooding of target areas for ice growth. Yellowknife Dispatch will become fully operational for the season and will support ExDoc training and issuing WR Numbers. If the current weather conditions remain within the region and the follow-up road construction and ice profiling produces favourable data, it is anticipated that the entire main road should be operational in the next 8-10 days.

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