Title: Ongoing monitoring of the Devil’s Woodyard Mud Volcano.

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This research project is a continuation of an ongoing study undertaken by the Department of Physics, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. It is based on monitoring the activity of the mud volcano at the Devil’s Woodyard, near Princess Town, Trinidad. The techniques utilized in this study included observing visible surface indicators and the use of two geophysical techniques: seismic refraction and electrical resistivity to determine the subterranean characteristics of the mud volcano.

The visible indicators on the surface are generally vents, and terracing and cracking of the tassik. There was noted activity during 2006 which were seen on the surface as terracing and increased number of vents. Observations in 2008 showed that there have been erosion, and settling and compaction of the terraces since then. Compared with 2005 visible indicators, there are less surface vents in 2008.

Results obtained from the seismic refraction survey showed that the seismic velocities of the subsurface are consistent with those of clay. More detailed characteristics were however obtained from the electrical resistivity survey. The electrical resistivity survey utilized the Schlumberger array. The analysis of this survey indicated that the subsurface of the Devil’s Woodyard mud volcano is complex, with a mixture of saturated and partially saturated clay.