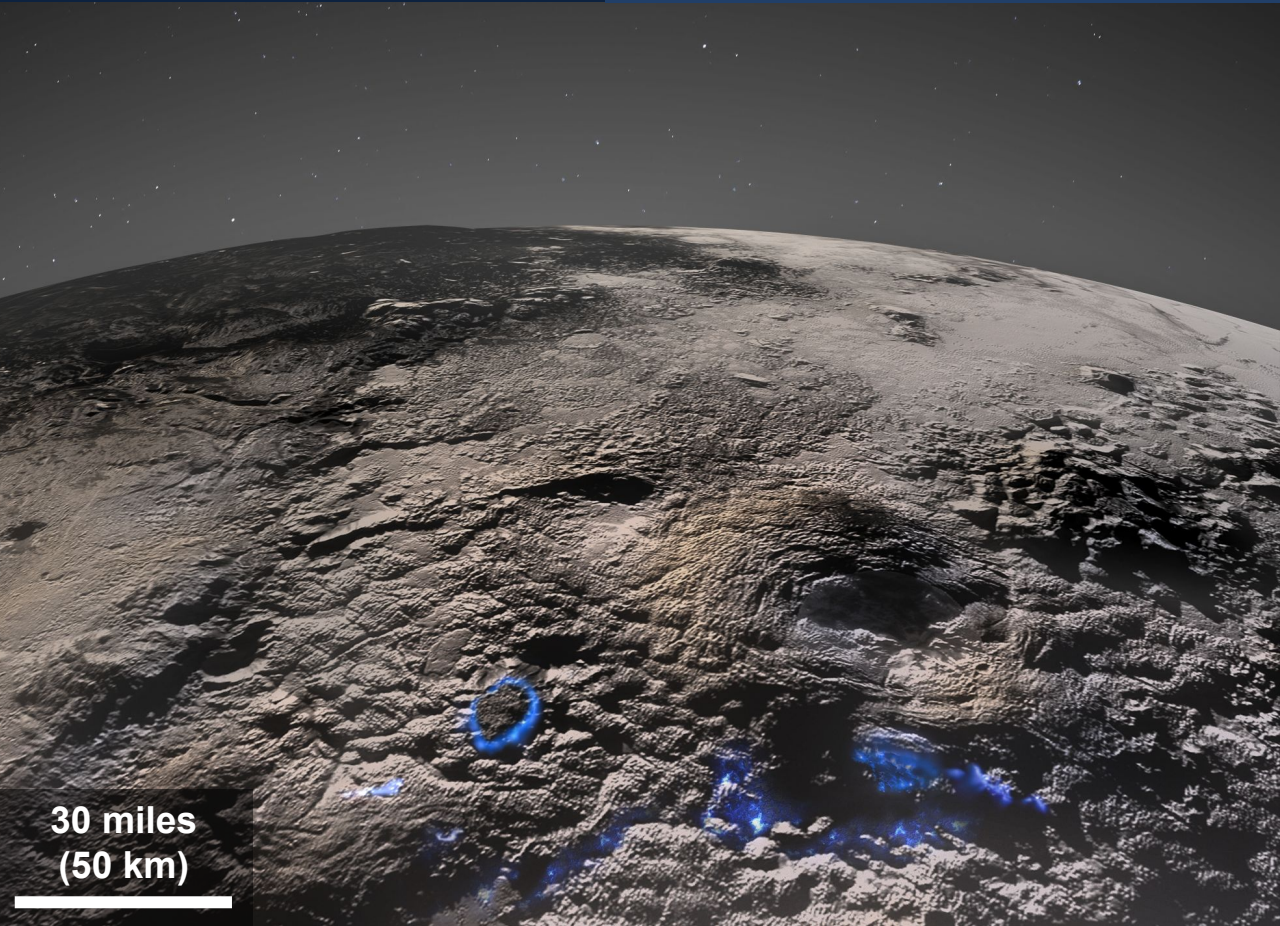


Giant Ice Volcanoes Discovered on Pluto



New Horizon's view of Pluto's icy volcanic region, which is roughly the size of Hawaii. The blue-shaded regions represent areas where, at a moment in the past, water-rich icy "lava" might have flowed out from the interior to the surface.

Image credit: NASA / Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory / Southwest Research Institute / Isaac Herrera / Kelsi Singer

New Horizons discovered a large field of ice volcanoes on Pluto that are individually up to 4.5 miles high and 100 miles across.

- These structures are unique in the solar system, geologically young, and enigmatic.
- They require multiple eruption sites and a large volume of icy material to form.
- The eruptions may be episodic, just like volcanic eruptions on Earth. These ice volcanoes could still be active and continue to erupt in the future.
- This result implies more heat is present inside Pluto today than previously expected, and may allow liquid water to be close to the surface.

Singer et al. (2022) *Nature Communications*