

SITREP 5 - December 19, 2010
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Written at WAIS Divide

- I. Passenger movements
 - A. SCO
 - 1. D.Voigt departed WSD on 14Dec (D013R).
 - B. NICL
 - 1. n/a
 - C. IDDO
 - 1. J.Kyne and C.Gibson arrived WSD on 17Dec (D014)
 - 2. M.Jayred and J.Koehler departed WSD on 17Dec (D014R)
- II. Cargo Movements
 - A. Two AFPs (Air Force Pallets) of ice core (I-477) were sent to McMurdo on 13Dec (D012R).
 - B. 35 skids (for I-477 ice core AFPs) arrived.
- III. Camp Activities
 - A. Current camp population as of 19Dec is 44: 13 RPSC, 4 NANA, 7 I-477, 1 I-478, 10 T-350, 4 I-157, 5 I-158.
 - B. The generators shut down on one occasion this week without backup power engaging. Power was out for approximately 7 minutes.
 - C. I-158 returned from their traverse. They retro'ed 8 ISC boxes' worth of ice cores on 19Dec, which brings their total to 12 ISC boxes of ice.
 - D. The PIG Traverse departed this week after a couple of days in camp.
 - E. I-157 arrived WSD on 17Dec (D014).
 - F. Drilling has commenced!! Let the fun begin ...
- IV. Drill Depth and Time
 - A. ~2582m and ~21.3kyr (per T.Neumann's calculation using standard Nye correction).
- V. Status of Drilling (# of runs, meters of ice drilled, core quality)
 - A. 6 Runs
 - B. 17.966m of ice drilled
 - C. Core quality has been excellent. Some helical surface features are visible, but core diameter has remained consistent (121.5 mm). Azimuth, as determined by drill, appears to be consistent ($\pm 5^\circ$ between runs). Run breaks have been good to fair (some spalling has occurred off the dog marks). Point deformation in FED-to-4m-Tray system is being investigated – it has left a very superficial "score" along the length of the lower 2/3rd of the week's last 3 runs.
 - D. Distinct dark layer (1cm in thickness) with cloudy layers above and below appeared in the 2nd drill run of the season (approx. 2566m and 20.82kyr).

VI. Other

- A. The SCO/IDDO Arch group met 15Dec to discuss safety, training, and operations with select camp staff (manager, asst. manager and medical staff). This included location of all pertinent PPE and first-aid equipment. We also discussed protocols for select situations (deteriorating weather, industrial mishaps, Arch first-aid response and Arch "involvement" in potential MCIs).
- B. The SCO team continues to streamline and improve operations via daily meetings that discuss safety and procedural challenges.
- C. Eight skids of ice cores were pulled from the basement and loaded onto AFPs for shipment to McMurdo on 13Dec. 3 temperature loggers were placed on each AFP. The loading configuration is of the modified orientation (see SitRep4; long-edge of skids parallel to long-edge of AFP). Camp staff (Hayden) approved our cargo packaging skills.
- D. Shift work began this weekend. Shift One (Fegyveresi and Buffen supported by Roop and myself) worked Saturday afternoon and had Sunday off. Shift Two (Cox, Gkinis and Winski) began their transition (Saturday off) and will begin their workweek Sunday "night" (2000-0800). Hargreaves (NICL Rep), Roop and myself will stagger our presence between the two shifts so as to spend time with both groups.
- E. Much was done in the way of final tweaks, including: leveling of receiving station through FED, leveling of one-meter station and cut station, installation and training on database, cleaning of receiving (4m) trays, and procurement of additional safety items for SCO gantry in Arch (come-along and safety pins (to be made), per Thomas Olyjnik of RPSC Health and Safety).
- F. Julie Palais accompanied an NSF engineering site visit to WSD (13Dec – 14Dec). Overall, the group was pleased with what they observed, both procedurally and facilities-wise. They did remark at how organized the Arch "felt", both for the IDDO (drill) and SCO (processing) sides. They seemed to appreciate the nuances between operations.
- G. Fegyveresi completed science on the "Physical Properties" snowpit, which included collecting firn samples and a 4m core.
- H. Roop and myself began QA/QC via the Packing Station logging (and packing).
- I. T. Tran, a previous WAIS Camp Manager, delivered a beautiful, baby boy!
- J. Box of temperature loggers (9) returned to WSD from MCM. These were on the 3 shipments of previous AFPs (ice cores), and they have been successfully downloaded. NICL Rep and myself noted temperature plots, and will discuss with Camp Manager (P.Roberts) regarding correlating temperature to AFP placement.
- K. Beach-themed fete occupied Saturday night ... no benthic communities were harmed in the celebration of the first week of coring.