

SITREP 2, November 27, 2011, Day 5 at WSD

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Written at WAIS Divide

I. Passenger movements

A. SCO

1. D. Voigt arrived at WSD on 11/22 at 2335 on D008
2. S. Anandakrishnan, V. Miller (I-161), G. Clow, F. Urban (I-168), E. Waddington, and D. Kluskiewicz (I-162) were scheduled to fly to WSD on 11/24 but their flight was canceled due to weather at McMurdo. The same McMurdo weather has kept R. Bay in Christchurch. He is scheduled to arrive in McMurdo on 11/28 with L. Peters.

B. IDDO

1. K. Dahnert, M. Jayred, J. Goetz and E. Morton arrived at WSD on 11/22.

II. Cargo Movements

A. Cargo arriving from CONUS

1. The bulk of the science cargo for the Borehole Logging team and the IDDO team has been delivered to WSD. This included the logging winch and level wind. These items were not drifted. The D-4 (Caterpillar) was returned to WSD on D007. This was critical for clearing of the Arch doors.
2. Other critical cargo is stuck in McMurdo with the remaining pax.

III. Camp Activities

- A. Current camp population, 35, 4 T-350, 1 I-477, 27 RPSC, 3 NANA
- B. Camp is in outstanding condition and ready for the science teams to arrive. The skiway is ready to take maximum ACL flights.
- C. Thanksgiving was celebrated on Saturday, 11/25. Camp staff still worked half a day.
- D. The food is excellent. Our Thanksgiving meal very nice.

- E. The 953 Cat is having some track issues. Its use is being limited to critical picks because it will be needed when time comes to re-spool the drill cable and to set the winch in place.
- F. Work has progressed on the Arch. The drill side floor was leveled as much as possible. Work has begun on the trench. The initial step was taken by T-350 on 11/23 with rotation of the tower to vertical. After covering the borehole TOC, work was started removing the ductwork that vents the trench. This was necessitated by the walls closing on the ducting. There is concern that a breach in the ductwork would prevent adequate ventilation of the trench. With the ducting removed, work will start on widening the trench. The plan is to work on the borehole end first so that logging can start while work continues on the trench. The ductwork will be replaced after logging is completed. We would like to consider replacing the current ductwork with flexible hose.
- G. Work continues on clearing the Arch doors. The processing-side doors were completely cleared prior to the storm last week when the bowl was filled in again. The doors and approach to the doors are clear again. Work on the drill-side doors is more difficult but progress is being made with lots of hand shoveling involved. How to gain access to the "Moose Door" is now the question. There is significant drifting in this area with snow the full depth of the arch covering the door. Update, 11/27; The drill-side arch doors are clear enough that the man-door can be opened. I expect that the big door will be opened by 11/28 so that snow from the trench can be removed.

IV. Drill Depth and Time

A. N/A

V. Status of Drilling (# of runs, meters of ice drilled, core quality)

A. N/A

VI. Status of Borehole Logging

A. By COB on Friday, 11/25, work on the trench has progressed far enough that borehole logging will be able to commence on schedule on December 1st.

VII. Other

- A. D. Voigt and the members of T-350 held a “safety summit” on 11/26 with the intent of updating the WAIS Divide safety guidelines in light of the changes in direction planned for this season. It was felt that between the number of new people and the different evolutions that will take place this season, the safety plan needed to be revised.
- B. I took the opportunity at the camp meeting after breakfast on 11/26 to remind all that, while science is important and support of science is what we are all doing here, safety still needs to be the priority. We do not need to rush tasks and take shortcuts that might lead to an injury in the name of science.
- C. K. Dahnert, E. Morton and D. Voigt have inspected the Arch worksites at the start of each day to evaluate progress and assess the work environment. Safety concerns have been addressed with the Camp Manager and Construction Foreman, and corrections continue to be made.
- D. Even with the flight delays this week we are in good position to start Borehole Logging on or before December 1, which was our target date.