

SITREP 9, January 13, 2013; Day 52 at WAIS Divide

Donald Voigt, SCO Rep., Chief Scientist at WAIS Divide

- I. Passenger movements
 - A. SCO
 - 1. Ross Beaudette and Jihong Cole-Dai (I-476) departed Monday on D024.
 - 2. Kari Peterson (I-476) departed Friday on D026
 - B. IDDO
 - 1. Tanner Kuhl arrived on D024, Chris Gibson departed.
- II. Cargo Movements
 - A. No Cargo arrived from McMurdo
 - B. Retro; I-476 cargo including Severinghaus samples in three ISC boxes. The equipment used to wind a new cable for the drill was returned to McMurdo. Jay and I felt that this equipment was no longer needed this late in the project.
- III. Camp Activities
 - A. Current camp population; 48 total. 10 T-350, 4 I-477, 9 G-079 (PoleNet), 18 ASC, 3 T-500 (KBA), 2 O-283 (AWS), 2 C-407 (PIG transitioning to MCM).
 - B. Saturday Safety meeting; After the camp End-of-week we discussed prevention of injuries especially in light of the fact that we are coming to the end of the season. During this phase of operations people are worn out and losing focus, the weather is starting to get colder and the potential for careless injuries increases. We discussed where there are potential hazards and points of failure for each work center and in science, and how these dangers might be mitigated.
 - C. All three access-ways to the Arch remain open, though the processing side doors have started to drift over as of Sunday.
 - D. Elizabeth Morton (IDDO Safety Officer) and I continue to inspect the Arch and surroundings for Safety issues.

- E. Camp remains in very good condition thanks to continuous grooming and attention by the camp staff.
- F. The skiway remains in good condition.
- G. The generators are running normal except that the switch gear is not on line.
- H. The correct parts for the generator are still on the way.
- I. The freezers are running normally and temperature has reached -25°C to -28°C. Trays are emptied every 8 hours.
- J. Weather this week continues to bring fresh snow with little wind till Sunday when the winds picked up. We received freezing precipitation on Sunday evening and by Monday AM it is -5°C.
- K. As of today we are down to about a week's worth of fuel. We are scheduled for an LC-130 with fuel tonight, but weather at WSD being what it is we are keeping an eye on the fuel supply.

IV. Status of Drilling

- A. 48 runs this week for a total of 21 meters of ice from Replicate Core #3.
- B. Wednesday recovered fully round core in #3 at 2221.71 meters depth.
- C. Thursday had too much trouble re-entering hole in deviation #3. Accidently started a new deviation which was drilled to 2228+ meters before it intersected the parent borehole.
- D. Worked to establish new ledge to start from with little success.
- E. Friday managed to start at 2228 where the previous hole ended and push the drill over enough to drill at a steeper angle. Coring continued in #3. The core depth is now at 2244 meters.

- F. After review of the schedule and current rate of success Jay, Krissy and I decided to investigate asking for an extension of drilling. The extension was granted by Julie Palais and we will continue drilling operations by the end of 31 January. This should not have any effect on camp close-out operations. Included in the additional three days are two days of screen runs intended to clean chips from the the fluid column and remove approximately 5 to 7 meters of chips from the bottom of the main borehole.
 - G. Sunday a successful logging tool test was conducted at Deviation #3 before the resumption of drilling. Details to follow.
 - H. Drilling resumed at 1500 on Sunday after a 24 hour stand-down. First core by 1650
- V. Flights; flights out of McMurdo have been hampered by very poor conditions on both the road to Pegasus and at the skiway. This has affected flights on continent and flights to and from Christchurch and represents a serious challenge for the end of the season.
- A. We received an LC-130 on Monday with 15 passengers, six of whom went immediately to PIG.

Monday; D024, cargo, fuel and pax

Wednesday; D025, cargo and pax

Friday; D026, cargo and pax

- VI. Other
- A. Gave Arch tours to three separate groups.
 - B. The BAS Twin Otter assigned to PIG has been making numerous trips bringing science out of PIG and close-out crew in.
 - C. Brad, Emily, John and Graham (Camp Comms) departed on an overnight traverse to the other side of the Divide to drill two shallow cores. They returned on Tuesday afternoon having successfully finished Brad's side project drilling.
 - D. Sridhar Anandakrisnan gave a science talk on Thursday night tying together the science of PIG, Polenet and the Ice Core Project.