NEEM - SITREP no. 13, Sunday 19 July 2009.

This SITREP covers the period July 13 – July 19, 2009 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

July 13

Mads Ellehøj (DK), Ivana Cvijanovic (DK), Mai Winstrup (DK), Fabien Gillet (UK), Tim Brücher (DK), Markus Frey (UK), Susanne Lilja Buchardt (DK), Anders Svensson (DK), Nerys Menna Lewis (UK), Jeppe Jønch Andersen (DK), Alex Pyne (NZ), Tina Brand (DK) from SFJ to CPH by Air-Greenland.

Movement of Cargo:

No movement of cargo.

Camp activities:

This week the camp has been working in routine again after new teams were trained last week. Drilling, CFA and logging has proceeded with good progress. The first core with no breaks was drilled Sunday afternoon hopefully marking the end of the brittle zone. There have been much activity in the firn-gas village 2 km from camp, with shallow drilling and air sampling.

Skiway:

No work on skiway this week.

Construction:

A third garage to be used for storage has been built. The new core buffer was finished with the beams that the shelves are placed on. The top office in the Main dome was equipped with table, side supports, a platform and a sofa. A new outdoor toilet was dug out and set up.

Drilling:

Drilling is running in a stable mode, after some problems and maintenance during the week. In the first days of the week, drilling was stable with a steady inclination of 1.9 degrees. After some days, this configuration became unstable, resulting in inclination of 2.2 degrees and packing of chips. Friday night/Saturday morning was spent on a thorough maintenance of the drill. During this, a core barrel was lost in the hole, but successfully recovered in the first fishing run. After the maintenance, the drill worked excellent, and drilling is now back in stable mode again.

The shallow 3 inch drill was used in the firn-air village to drill one shallow core at 50 m for firn-air sampling, and started drilling a second shallow core at site NEEM2009S1 (present depth 15 m).

Driller's depth: 1217.74 m, production this week is 147.85 m.

Logging:

Logging proceeds in the brittle zone. The brittle ice cores have been stored some time before they are logged and cut in 1.65 m sections. The logging has been done on a 24 hour schedule in order to catch up with the drillers as the end of the brittle zone is near.

Logging depth: 1131.29 m.

Science Trench:

No processing because we are in the brittle zone. CFA has been running in a 24 hour schedule. CFA depth: 442.2 m.

Other science activities:

The firn-village was established last week 2 km from the NEEM camp. This week air sampling has been done down to 50 m depth. Pit samples has been taken, and the shallow bore hole at site NEEM2008S2 has been temperature logged.

Weather at NEEM:

Warm and sunny all week with temperatures at noon up to 0 deg C.

NEEM camp population: 36

Kangerlussuaq activities:

Main activities in Kangerlussuaq have been cleaning up after the previous weeks flight period and maintenance of the cars. We have washed field gear, repaired and cleaned down clothes, and cleaned up in the field gear containers, and made an inventory of the field gear. We are working our way through the list of issues related to servicing all of the different vehicles. The blue Toyota Landcruiser is done, except from changing left rear spring (not urgent). We have been in contact with participants in the media/DV visit to the NEEM camp in next flight period to get their personal data and booking details for their stay in Kangerlussuaq. We have ordered back-up equipment for the FOM laptop. It is now installed and running a regular backup schedule.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq:

Warm and sunny with blue sky most days. Temperatures are generally around 20 °C. Mosquito level is low to moderate.

NEEM Field operations office, Christine Hvidberg Bo Hvidberg