

NEEM - SITREP no. 5, Sunday 24 May 2009.

This SITREP covers the period May 18 - 24, 2009 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

May 18: Anna Sturevik Storm (S), Louise Albershardt (US), Kristina Dahnert (US), Henry Rufli (CH), Mathias Bigler (CH), Simon Schüpbach (CH), Sepp Kipfstuhl (D), Christian Panton (DK), H.C. Steen-Larsen (DK), Marianne Benn (DK), Sigfus Johann Johnsen (DK), Bo Vinther (DK), Peter Sperlich (DK), Nobuhiko Azuma (J) and Lone Holm Hansen (DK) from SFJ to NEEM by the 109th.

Henrik Bundgaard (DK) and HansPeter Moret (CH) from NEEM to SFJ via Thule and SUMMIT to SFJ by the 109th.

May 19 Henrik Bundgaard (DK) and HansPeter Moret (CH) from SFJ to CPH by Air Greenland.

Movement of Cargo:

May 18: 6625 kg Science equipment and food from SFJ to NEEM by the 109th.

May 20: 8260 kg Construction materials, drill liquid and food from SFJ by 109th.

Camp Activities:

Finally people waiting in Kangerlussuaq for four days made it to camp. The number of people in camp went from 10 to 23. And a lot of work was done in and around the camp after five days of bad weather.

The last weatherports were erected and the camp is now fully established. Arriving cargo and cargo covered by snow drifts has been dug out, sorted and retrieved. Many parts of the cargo line have been pulled to surface, and removal of 3 m high snow drifts between buildings is in progress. Construction work in drill trench is finished, drill trench is now fully equipped for wet deep drilling. Friday, focus in construction moved to the science trench. Set up of new tables, excavation of a Physical properties cave ("Sepp-cave"), extension of the CFA-lab and ECM setup was made in the science trench.

Work on a new temporary inclined trench began in order to install staircase, elevator and a new cook's freezer. Sunday, the main power distribution panel was exchanged, while camp for six hours was running on backup power.

The skiways were maintained and NEEM camp has receiving two airplanes this week. Camp has been maintaining two skiways so far: The old one used for landing and the new one as a takeoff skiway. After Wednesday's flight, the old skiway is closed, and camp has begun transferring flagging from the old to the new skiway. Next flight week there will only be the new skiway.

Drilling:

The drilling this week started out with the HT drill in dry mode. Then the EPICA drill was assembled and made ready while a camera was lowered into the borehole for inspection of the hole and the casing. The HT drill diverted from the pilot hole from last year, and at 98 m the new hole was completely clear of the old one. The inclination of the new hole is 0.7 degrees, which is a very good start indeed. Wet drilling could begin and drilling fluid was pumped into the borehole. Tests showed the best mixing ratio for Estisol/Coasol

to be rather 65/35 than 75/25 as planned. More Coasol has been ordered. Due to a larger diameter of the borehole, the chip chamber fills up faster but the EPICA drill made several stable runs in wet mode yielding more than two meter cores. Drilling properties of new drill fluid is very good. The chip removal systems of the drills work well, and lost chips float to the surface of the fluid column. We have two complete and operational winch controls ready, and a third one is being repaired. The second winch control is repaired and available as backup.

Driller's depth: 134.44 meters

Science activities:

A water vapor sampling station has been set up and is running. Data has been downloaded from the seismic station and sent to Copenhagen. Apparently, the station has a problem acquiring GPS satellite clock signal. Measurements of ECM on the new core have established a firm link to last year's pilot core. The two cores overlap by 5 m, and by matching layers of volcanic acidity, the depth scale of the new core has been fixed relative to the 2008 snow surface with few cm precision.

Weather at NEEM:

Variable from overcast with snow showers to blue sky, also some days with haze and fog, - 23 C to -9 C, 2-23 knots mainly from S and SSE to E. Visibility: 200 m to unrestricted. Most days windy with blowing snow; but the weekend was really beautiful.

NEEM camp population: 23.

Kangerlussuaq Activities: Preparations for the two flights into the camp this week.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq: (SFJ), in the beginning of the week frost in the morning, later in the week very nice weather with sun. Catabatic winds from the ice sheet lifting the sand and dust. Temperatures between +18 C and -5 C sunny and windy. No mosquitoes

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