

NEEM - SITREP no. 17, Sunday 16 August 2009.

This SITREP covers the period August 10 – August 16, 2009 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

No move of personnel this week.

Movement of Cargo:

60 kg equipment from Kangerlussuaq to CPH by Air Greenland.

Camp activities:

The last shelves have been setup in Garage 3, and immediately the shelves have been filled with items for storage over winter. Snow drifts have been removed around camp, and with snow blowers and the Pistenbully the snow surface above the trenches have been made flat. Snow hills have been made for over winter storage in the cargo line. Normal science and drilling activities continued thru Wednesday, when the CFA laboratory was closed for packing down. Drilling continued until Thursday. Friday some tests were made and Saturday the NEEM hole was logged. Processing and logging continued until Saturday. Sunday, all camp personnel participated in packing down. It is planned to make the pull-out and camp closing on Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

Skiway:

Skiway taxiway and apron are in fine condition, it was groomed Sunday.

Drilling:

Drilling during the week has been stable. Inclination is still under control. Thursday, an experiment to release 1 micron fluorescent beads into the drill fluid at the bottom was successfully completed. Some tests with a new outer barrel were conducted, and Saturday the bore hole logger was deployed. The drilling activities for 2009 are now completed. Core quality has been good all season.

Driller's depth: 1740.39 m, production this week is 119.64 m. The drilling achievement of 2009 is to our knowledge the longest deep drill ice core produced in one summer season.

The bore hole logging is complete. Temperatures show a minimum of -29.068 C at 240 m depth and -22.953 C at 1758 m depth.

Logging:

Freshly drilled cores are logged immediately after drilling. Logging depth: 1757.84 m.

Science Trench:

Work in the science trench has been extremely exiting. The team enjoyed the excitement of passing through several fast climatic transitions which are clearly detected in ECM and DEP and visible with the naked eye in the polished ice core section for the line scanner. For most crew members, this was a first time experience. The team in camp is privileged. While it took more than 2 months to pass through 11,000 years, it took only 10 days to pass through yet another 12,000 years, and this week 15,000 more annual snowfalls passed through the saws in the science trench. All equipment has been working fine, except for a few minor repairs. Now the winterization of equipment that stays and packing of other equipment is in full swing.

Processing depth: 1756.70 m (bag 3194). End of processing at NEEM 2009.

Before closing the CFA laboratory on Wednesday, a 13.75 m section of the deep ice core below the brittle zone (bags 2331 to 2355) was measured. CFA depth: 1295.25 m.

Other science activities:

Several GPS positions on the strain net around NEEM have been re-measured.
Biological experiments by Todd Sowers in NEEM deep hole, using beads released at depth was successfully concluded.
Snow pit sampling area was closed Tuesday.

Weather at NEEM:

Week began sunny with moderate winds. From Tuesday some cloudiness and ground fog. Later in the week light snow. Noon temperatures up to -8 deg C. Night temperatures now down to -22 deg C. Winds between 5 and 12 knots from SE turning SW.

NEEM camp population: 34

Kangerlussuaq activities:

Shelves have been installed in the warehouse. All pallets for next week's transport are completed. The ice core freezer runs fine at -23 C.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq:

Sunny with blue sky until Saturday. Temperatures at day 15 °C, at night 4 C. Mosquitoes are gone, mushrooms and blueberries are plenty, but are now suffering from a 5 week drought. Due to frost, vegetation is beginning to show traces of autumn colors.

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