

NEEM - SITREP no. 5, Sunday 23 May 2010

This SITREP covers the period May 17 - 23, 2010 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

- May 17 Jeffrey Severinghaus(US), Simon Sheldon(UK), Robert Zola Christensen(DK) and Jørn Leslie Faurskov(DK) from SFJ to CPH by Air Greenland.
Aaron Doering(US-GoNorth), Brant Miller(US-GoNorth) and Andrea Verdegan(US-GoNorth) from SFJ to Schenectady by 109'Th.
- May 18 Ed Stockhard(US-CPS) and Mark Begnaud(US-CPS) From SFJ to NEEM by 109'Th
Ed Stockhard(US-CPS) and Mark Begnaud(US-CPS) From NEEM to SFJ by 109'Th
- Hans Christian Florian(GL) from SFJ to Nuuk by Air Greenland
- May 22 Kathy Young(US-CPS) from SFJ to NEEM by 109'Th
Kathy Young((US-CPS) and Mille Porsild(DK-GoNorth) from NEEM to SFJ by 109'Th

Movement of Cargo:

- May 17 AWB 108 201 55601, 15 kg French Dangerous Goods from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.
- May 18 4975 kg Science gear/Wooden Beams/Food from SFJ to NEEM by 109'Th
2725 kg Ice cores /Empty drums from NEEM to CPH
- May 20 1365 kg Ice cores from SFJ to CPH by Air Greenland.
- May 21 10 kg Danish Dangerous Goods from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.
- May 22 3635 kg Drill liquid/spare parts from SFJ to NEEM by 109'Th
2950 kg dogs/GoNorth eq./ empty drums from NEEM to SFJ by 109'Th

Activities:

This week the cargo line was cleaned up and snowdrifts were again removed from the camp.

Retro cargo was prepared for the two airplanes that arrived this week.

One plane was the scheduled NEEM cargo plane with the remaining science equipment.

Due to delays and changed travel plans from the GoNorth dog sledge team the scheduled June 4 pull-out plane at Summit Station was moved forward and one dog team member and 22 dogs were pulled-out from the NEEM site instead late this week.

In the trenches work on the cooling system continued and curtains between the trenches, a door to new ice box cave were installed. Temperatures are now; Drill trench: -20C, Science trench: -23C and box storage -26C

Skiway:

Even though the PB300 was back in operation on the skiway there has not been enough time to level the rollers created by snow drifts the week before and landing load has not increased.

The second flight arrived just after another snowfall which did not help the situation. The airplane however was able to get airborne in first attempt without rockets.

Drill trench:

Monday was the first day of real drilling however in education mode. Tuesday the two 8 hour teams started and good ice cores were produced. Minor adjustment had to be done both to the electronics and the deep drill. While the old pump was replaced three cleaning runs gave 22 kg chips. Several new booster configurations were tried during the week.

This week production: 79m

Driller's depth: 1823.44m

Logging depth: 1836.95m

Science trench:

The last of the science equipment was installed in the trench and the Labs.

Wednesday everything was ready for the processing and procedures were trained. This year, we have decided to cut and process the ice cores in length of 1.10 m (two bags). This way the ice core buffer storage was optimized.

On Saturday the complete CFA was running and all chemical components were measured, next the Gas Lab will be coupled to the melt line.

Processing this week: 99 bags or 54.45 m. (ECM and DEP indicate that onset of IS 11 is at 1810m, some 10 m lower than in preliminary model)

Processing depth: 1811.15m

Associated programs:

Canadian sampling for pollen has begun.

Setting up water vapour sampling site.

Maintaining seismic station.

Joe McConnell pit study.

NEEM iridium numbers:

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Weather at NEEM:

Temperatures between -24 and -14 C, 1 -18 knots, nice weather in the beginning of the week then snow showers and bad weather in the end of week.

NEEM camp population: Reduced to 34 the last GoNorth dog team member and the dogs left camp Saturday.

Kangerlussuaq activities:

Friday this week we experienced another new situation, sitting on the runway prior to clearance for takeoff skier 61 was called back to the parking area and the flight to NEEM was cancelled. Somehow the Icelandic ash cloud found its way only to NEEM. The next day the mission to NEEM went fine.

Preparing cargo and documents for the two flights.

Cleaning up in warehouse and clothing containers.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq/SFJ: Very nice weather most of all week, Sunny but in the afternoons some wind and blowing sand. Day temperatures up to 20 C, night about 5C to 8C

First mosquitoes arrived Saturday two weeks earlier than normal.

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