

NEEM - SITREP no. 15, Sunday 7. August 2011

This SITREP covers the period August 1 – August 7, 2011 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

- **No movement of personnel**

Movement of cargo:

August 4: 2687 kg (70 boxes) ice cores from SFJ to Copenhagen by Air Greenland.

Activities:

The big event of the week was the movement of the main dome. Monday excavation of a 6 degree inclined slope towards the centre of main-street began and this work was completed by Tuesday. One weatherport had to be taken down as it was in-line with the track. After breakfast on Wednesday all loose items in the main dome were secured, and the pull of the main dome to centre of camp was completed in just one minute. 30 minutes later, power and communication were re-established. The main dome remained on main-street until Saturday morning when it was pulled back to its original position after the hole there had been backfilled. In a few hours electrical power, snowmelters, water supply and central heating were re-established. The dome moving operation has successfully achieved two goals: 1. The main dome has been lifted 4.5 m to the new snow surface securing it for the next three years, and 2. we have demonstrated that the main dome can be moved over snow and can be reused in another project.

Skiway:

The skiway has been maintained to accommodate the Meridian flights. Grooming of taxiway, apron and skiway began on Sunday in preparation of the flights by the 109th next week. As weather during the week has been really good and cold, we do not expect any problems getting the skiway ready for the LC-130s.

Drilling:

Monday night drilling with the Danish shallow drill to 30 m at B26 was completed.

Wednesday evening drilling of a 40 m Ice2Sea shallow core began at 77.85210N 52.02630W. Drilling was completed Thursday morning and the crew of four returned to NEEM camp.

Saturday morning drilling of a 20 m core in the vicinity of NEEM camp began. This core is to complement the 430 m core drilled earlier for Joe McConnell. Drilling of this core was completed by Sunday evening.

During the week, the AWI drill testing team drilled close to the sauna garage. Wednesday night the drill got stuck at 50 m depth. Friday morning the drill was freed again using 50 litre of warm glycol. A new drilling began on Sunday with the Danish inner and outer tubes using the German drill head and motors. This test went fine, and the AWI drill testing is now completed.

Science:

Both the B26 core and the Ice2sea core have been processed in the science trench using DEP and cutting of samples. The overlap core has been logged and packed into U.S. core boxes for transport to the U.S.

The water vapour sampling site has been running fine until the last day, Thursday. On Friday work began to take the equipment down.

The Japanese aerosol sampling station has been monitored and maintained until Sunday. Monday morning the sampling site will be taken down.

The AWI radar has been used for mapping the area around the drill sites B26 and the Ice2Sea site (directly under a CryoSat track).

The Kansas UAV team had the Meridian airborne on Tuesday. During flights on Wednesday some unexpected issues arose, which required some trouble shooting. Saturday the Meridian was airborne again and this time with the radar active. Sunday flying was restricted due to fog.

Weather at NEEM:

The weather this week was fine with blue skies. Night temperatures are dropping as the end of summer is approaching. Temperature: -18C to -3C, Wind: 4 to 18 knots from S and SE. Ground fog formed Saturday and continued until Sunday evening.

NEEM camp population: 23

NEEM iridium numbers:

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Kangerlussuaq Activities:

Cargo in the warehouse has been rearranged and new shelves installed. 80 drums of drilling fluid have been packed away in a container and in the warehouse. One container has been filled with rubbish for the tip. The cargo yard has been cleaned up and 70 boxes of ice have been sent to Denmark. The freezer is now ready to receive the last shipment from camp.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq/SFJ:

Mixed clouds and sunshine and little rain. Mostly wind from the East and dusty. On sunny days temperatures up to 20 C. Night time temperatures around 5 C and it is getting dark at night again. Mosquitoes are gone. Mushrooms, blueberries and flowers everywhere.

*NEEM Field Operations office,
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