

NEEM - SITREP no.06, Sunday 05. June 2011.

This SITREP covers the period May 30 – June 05, 2011 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

No movement of personnel

Movement of cargo:

May 30 110kg Science equipment (F) from Reykjavik (KEF) to Kangerlussuaq (SFJ) by Twin Otter.

May 31 8kg Spareparts from Kangerlussuaq to NEEM by Norland Twin Otter (PARCA project).

June 02 106kg Science equipment (NL) from Copenhagen (CPH) to SFJ by Air Greenland.

Activities:

The week began productive with some work on the skiway, service on vehicles, repairs on Pistenbully tracks and brainstorming in the driller team. They found a solution to handle their broken winch problem and by Thursday the drilling continued. Both CFA measurements and processing were running smooth. Tuesday at 21.00 the U.S. PARCA team arrived by Twin Otter. They are maintaining a large number of automatic weather stations along the 2000 m contour of the Greenland Ice Sheet and it was planned that they will use NEEM as a hub for their visits to the sites in the North the next few days. But because of forecasted high winds they left NEEM already on Thursday to seek shelter on the East coast of Greenland. Friday morning the bad weather began. Camp personnel were briefed on safety procedures during blizzards and radios were issued to the different teams. Scientific work continued in the trenches and so did drilling in the shelter of the garage. The stormy weather got even worse on Saturday, but luckily got better on Sunday. By lunchtime camp could be seen again and also the extensive snowdrifts which have built up everywhere. Cleaning up began.

Skiway:

Levelled some undulations on skiway with Pistenbully at the beginning of the week. No further work possible because of the bad weather for the rest of the week.

Drilling:

Since the replacement of the initial winch motor also failed and the two motors could not be combined to one working unit due to technical reasons, a new approach to fix the problem had to be found. An adapter was manufactured which allowed to mount the winch motor from the German shallow drill instead. Although successful in the end, this did not happen without complications. Since the old motor is now used as a drive shaft only and thus not physically removed it started to act as a generator when forced to rotate by the external motor. Overheating was the result and the coils had thus to be taken out. Therefore, the 500m cable had to be unwound and rewound for a second (mounting the German motor) and third time (removing coils). After successful tests, drilling started again producing good quality 1.5 m cores. On Saturday drilling entered a routine mode with good runs despite the complications of having to open the

garage each time the core barrel was extracted, causing the air in the garage to immediately fill with blowing snow.

Drillers depth: 190 m.

Science:

Instrument for on-line gas analysis SARA has broken down. The back-up instrument JUDY came into operation and it is running fine.

CFA is running smooth, production this week: 2252.25 m to 2405.15 m (152.90 m)

Thursday the last section of brittle ice was processed. Processing NEEM deep core brittle zone is now complete. Core processed this week: Bags 1987 – 2099 (58.85 m)

Processing NEEM S1 2011 420m core: Bags 12 – 125 (68.75 m)

3rd U.S. borehole logging in progress.

Performing logging experiments in the deep hole, including borehole temperature logging and processing temperature log file.

Maintained seismic station in the science trench.

Weather at NEEM:

Monday to Thursday mostly clear with thin overcast in between. Friday the overcast changed to scattered clouds and strong wind picked up, continuously blowing for the rest of the week. Snow during the weekend.

Temperatures between -15 C to -28 C and wind speeds at 4-32 knots with gusts up to 42 knots.

NEEM camp population: 26

NEEM iridium numbers:

Primary no.: +8816 777 04 766

Tel.: +299 84 11 51

Mobile: +299 52 41 25

Kangerlussuaq/SFJ iridium number: +8816 214 42402

Kangerlussuaq Activities:

Organizing spare parts, receiving cargo, ordering food.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq/SFJ:

From Monday on cloudy with sunny spells and windy, sunny and warm on Sunday. Day temperatures between 2 C and 20 C.

*NEEM Field Operations office,
Tanina Jenk-Ritzmann*