

NEEM - SITREP no. 5, Sunday May 25, 2008.

This SITREP covers the period May 19 – May 25, 2008 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

May 22: Michael V. Strand from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland

Movement of Cargo:

May 23: 1660 kg; 31 Colli, Generator and spare parts from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.

Activities:

It was a very cold and windy start of the week. Wind was more than 20 m/s and with temperatures at -31 C. outdoor work was almost impossible. Only work from vehicles was carried out and the two meter high platform for the red tent domes was made. Tuesday the blizzard struck. The main generator ceased to work and the backup generator refused to work. The kitchen tent was without power. After three hours of work on the main generator in the blowing snow, it started, but ran only for half an hour before it stopped due to a serious engine break down. The kitchen tent was heated by kerosene and gas heaters until the spare generator was ready to run.

When weather cleared up midweek the tiller was mounted on the PistenBully and the first test was made to find the right configuration for the ski way.

During the week two new structures was erected, the two red domes. The smaller one will serve as housing for four people, the other will serve as kitchen dome while camp population increases and until the new main dome is built. The red dome was ready and installed with a new kitchen Saturday.

Saturday was also the day the NEEM camp visitors, Liz Morris and Martin Hignell, Scott Polar arrived after one month successful traverse in northern Greenland. They will fly out to Kangerlussuaq on one of the flights next week.

Another encouraging thing during a week with a lot of repairing, maintenance and cleanup after the storm was that the PB crane could be made operational after some suggestions from the company. The crane is now mounted on the PB and functions though only by carefully tending the manual controls. This is a big relief as the crane will play a crucial role in the coming construction work. The PB and crane was already in action Sunday when the construction of the first garage began.

Constructions this week:

Two red domes

New kitchen

Mounted tiller on PB

Mounted crane on PB

Dug out Toyota

Intermediate shower

Positioned hills for garage and red dome

Grooming ski way several times.

Operational equipment at site:

PB 300 W, tiller and manually controlled crane

PB 100 Flexmobile (black shovel)

Toyota Mattracks Landcruiser
Four Lynx Yeti V-800 Snowmobiles
Two Yanmar snow blowers
Two Hatz 5 kW generators (diesel)
One Honda 4.5 kW generator (gasoline)

Non operational:

Mase 16 kW generator, need repair/spareparts
PB-100 Flexmobil (yellow shovel) needs repair for oil leak.

Weather: Cold, strong winds, one day blizzard (> 15 m/s), then beautiful weather rest of the week with Blue sky, -36 C to -16 C, winds at 1 – 8 m/s.

Camp population: 11

In Kangerlussuaq preparation was made for the next 1½ weeks of flight operations which include 5-6 LC-130 missions to NEEM and a C-5 cargo airlift from the United States.

Weather -5 C to + 10 C, snow, rain and sun. Windy

NEEM Field operations office,

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