

NEEM 2007

SITREP no. 6, Sunday 5. August 2007.

This SITREP covers the period 30. July to 5. August, inclusive.

Movement of personnel:

No movement of personnel by air.

Movement of Cargo:

No movement of cargo by air.

NEEM camp activities:

The traverse came to a successful conclusion on Wednesday, 1. August as the NEEM site was reached. The previous day, a GPS transect was done close to the NEEM site to locate the exact position of the ice crest. This was 3 km South of the traverse route. As the traverse had been travelling in SE winds for several days, it was decided to approach the NEEM site from the North and West. Thus we approached the future camp site downwind. The camp was setup 300 m West of the future NEEM camp, leaving the upwind snow completely undisturbed for science. The present camp is the future cargo line.

The future deep drilling location was selected, and then the skiway was laid out using theodolite and GPS. The center of the skiway is 500 m at 40 degrees true from the drill hole position. Grooming of skiway commenced Thursday.

Sunday evening, the skiway and apron are flagged and groomed three times.

Skiway data:

Center position: N 77 deg. 26 min. 54.93 sec., W 51 deg. 03 min. 19.89 sec.

Altitude: 2484 m a.s.l. or 8140 feet.

Skiway direction: 310 – 130 degrees. TRUE, or 350 – 170 Magnetic (declination 40 degrees West)

Skiway is NE of camp. Length: 10000 feet, width 200 feet.

Apron length: 2500 feet, width 400 feet.

A 20 x 12 feet weatherport has been erected on a 1 m snow hill. This weatherport will remain standing as storage over winter. A full propane gas stove has been installed and is operational. HF radio and VHF radio have been installed, and successful radio check on 8093 kHz with VECO in Kangerlussuaq has been done.

Fuel status: The traverse brought from NGRIP 37 drums of Jet A-1 and 5 drums of MOGAS. At present we have 200 l MOGAS left and 15 drums of Jet A-1. Since most of the snowmobile driving is done, everything seems to work out fine.

Monday, the Mattrack of the Toyota was welded. As a crack was discovered on another one, we chose to wait one day at drill site 2 to repair this as well. At that time, three Mattracks have been repaired. Saturday afternoon, the main bearing in the fourth Mattrack broke, and the Toyota was transported back to camp on Air Force pallets.

Sunday morning, a full spare bearing kit was installed, and the Kansas radar resumed it's grid around NGRIP Sunday afternoon.

NEEM scientific activities:

100 m ice core drilling in progress.

AWI accumulation radar grid around NEEM completed.

Kansas radar finished half their planned 1 km grid around NEEM. Radar still working fine.

2/3 of the NEEM strain net is in position.

Tomorrow we will conduct a pit study, mount the battery on the PARCA weather station, some 8 km NE of camp, install the seismometer, finish drilling and begin to pack down for departure on Wednesday.

Traverse scientific activities:

All teams report satisfaction with obtained results along the traverse route. Traverse activities of radar profiling , strain net and drilling are successfully concluded.

Note on Kansas radar: During the week complications arose due to expiration of our radio transmitting permit in Greenland. In the application we had not accounted for the 2 week delay at the start of the season. The Kansas radar transmitted at 121.5 MHz (civilian SAR frequency) and 243 MHz (military SAR frequency). The radar continuously triggered the SAR satellite alarm system so the authorities refused to give an extension of the permit. After some negotiations, we were granted an extension provided the emergency frequencies were taken out. The Kansas radar was modified and measurements could continue. The radar has been running in the new configuration in three days, and so far we have not been notified of any problems.

NEEM Iridium phone +8816 41439864 and BGAN phone +870 772 213 205 will on in the weatherport all day.

Weather:

Several days thick overcast with poor contrast. Other days fine.

At NEEM -8 C to - 15 C, mostly blue sky and 5 m/s wind from 170-180 magnetic (straight down the skiway).

Persons at NEEM: 9

FL J.P.Steffensen