



WAIS Divide Ice Core Project

Climate, Ice Sheet History, Cryobiology

The WAIS Divide Ice Core Project had a two day support planning meeting with NSF, RPSC, ICDS, NICL, and the SCO. Everything is on track, although it will take a lot of work at NSF, ICDS, NICL, RPSC and the SCO to complete the many, many, many tasks needed to get ready for the deep coring. ICDS and NICL are making improvements to the drill and core handling systems based on their experiences in Greenland this summer. RPSC is finalizing the plans and purchases for the camp and the drilling/core handling facility. The SCO is starting to turn its attention more to outreach and science issues. A few science groups will be in the field this season.

The schedule for the project is listed below. It is great to see how well this project is coming together.

Antarctic Field Season 2006/2007

RPSC will prepare the drill and core handling arch for installation of the drill and core handling equipment. ICDS will recover two cores each ~130 m, install the surface casing for the deep hole, and set up the gantry crane that is used to set up the drill. Joe Souney (SCO) will log and pack the cores. NICL will inspect the core handling areas in preparation for the 2007/2008 season. Jihong Cole-Dai (South Dakota State University) will be doing snow pit chemistry work. Ben Smith (University of Washington; E. Waddington P.I.) will be doing optical borehole logging in shallow holes. Kenichi Matsuoka will be using ground-based radar to determine the ice fabric, which influences ice flow, around the deep core site.

For more information on these projects:

<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0440817>

<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0538553>

<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0538639>

<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0440847>

January 2007

The SCO will begin accepting applications for eight core handler/assistant driller positions for the 2007/2008 field season. These positions will require a deployment of two to three months and most will be filled by students and technicians working on the project. But we hope to fill a few of these positions with other students working on related topics, P.I.s, non U.S. students, or an outreach person. We will send out an announcement with more details in January. We will need field staff for at least the next three field seasons, so there will be other opportunities if you can not join us during the 2007/2008 field season.

June 2007

We will process the ~250 m of core that was collected during the 2006/2007 field season at NICL. If you want samples from the top 130 m, plan on sending someone to NICL to participate in the processing. People who have been selected to fill the core handling/assistant driller positions in the 2007/2008 field season will have to participate in the core processing line in June.

Early October 2007

We will have our first science meeting. Many projects will have results to present. Some projects will be just starting and they can present what they will do. The exact meeting dates and location will be determined within the next month.

Antarctic Field Season 2007/2008

The deep drill and core handling equipment will be set up at WAIS Divide in November and December. ICDS has committed to recovering at least 800 m of core, but if things go well we might be able to recover 1,500 m. Core handlers will deploy in early to late November and leave Antarctica before the first week of February.

January 2008 and Beyond

For the next three years we will be processing core at NICL in the summer, having a science meeting in the fall, and drilling at WAIS Divide.

