

## PROJECT SITUATION REPORT DISC Drill 2012-13 Season

**Project:** T-350-M

**Project Principal Investigator:** Dr. Charles Bentley

**Report No. 2 for period:** 11-18-12 **through:** 11-24-12

**Prepared by:** Kristina Dahnert **Date:** 11-25-12

### ACTIVITIES DURING PERIOD

- Built sleep kits for all T-350-M personnel.
- Organized all needed DNF cargo that had been stored in McMurdo (MCM) over winter.
- Located and re-TCNed all DISC Drill cargo currently in MCM. Five pieces remain in transit between Port Hueneme (PTH), Christchurch (CHC) and McMurdo (MCM). We do not expect any delays at this point.
- Completed Field Beverage Request Form for wave 1 of drillers.
- Attended an excellent Sunday Night Science Lecture in McMurdo presented by Don Voigt (SCO) entitled "WAIS Divide Ice Core Project: How Did We Do?" The lecture was well attended and received very positive feedback.
- Had fire extinguishers inspected and certified by the Firehouse; subsequently turned over to Haz Cargo for transport to WSD.
- Attended the Crary Lab Orientation, Environmental Briefing and Crary Walkthrough on 11/20/12.
- Attended FSTP (Snow School) Refresher course on Tuesday, 11/20/12. Also in attendance with us were Scott Borg and Brian Stone from NSF.
- Picked up all radio and Iridium phone equipment from Comms; labeled all pieces as T-350-M.
- Elizabeth, Josh and Krissy arrived at WAIS Divide (WSD) on Thursday 11/22/12 as originally scheduled and set up tents.
- Received and processed eight pieces of T-350-M cargo at WSD.
- Mike temporarily returned to Christchurch on Thursday, 11/22/12, for a follow up test requested by McMurdo Medical. We tentatively expect him back on the ice and out at WSD this week.
- Conducted an initial inspection of the Arch and took photos. The floor has again sustained substantial heaving, with several popped floor boards near the slot entry end of the Arch as well as at the end near the large doors. The carpenters are already in the process of repairing the floor. Large end doors on the Core Processing side of the Arch are fully accessible. The man door is accessible on the large door end of the Drill side. The large doors themselves have been cleared of snow, but the interior floor needs rework before the doors will be able to fully open.
- Installed VFD's in both gantry cranes and tested crane operation. The crane rails continued to move over winter, but safe travel for the blue gantry for large item installation has been verified. The yellow crane is operational and travel will be tested further upon completion of the floor work.

- Started up the tower hydraulic unit and were able to tilt the tower fully vertical! This is a testament to the excellent, time-consuming excavation of the slot walls performed by the Carp crew last season. The tower feet will be adjusted slightly toward the control room next week, which will determine if any footer rework or minor slot shaving will need to be done. Chipped away at snow near tower foot in anticipation of moving it over.
- Leveled the optical table
- Installed centrifuge PLC and timer
- Installed fluid tank batch controllers
- Leveled centrifuge
- Leveled screen cleaning table
- Leveled screen drying hot box
- Leveled winch cabinet base

## SAFETY

- Placed fire extinguishers in Core Processing side and Drill side of Arch.
- Verified drill fluid MSDS's are available in the drill control room and in the external eyewash station cabinet.
- Hung air monitor in control room (not yet in operation or calibrated).

## COMMENTS

### (Problems, Concerns, Recommendations, Etc.)

- There is an excellent camp staff crew in place this year under the direction of Camp Manager, Kaija Webster. Upon our arrival in camp, the Arch was already dug out and the 225kW generator was already up and running!
- Camp staff took off Saturday and Sunday for the Thanksgiving holiday. A Thanksgiving celebration was held at WAIS Divide on Saturday night, complete with five turkeys and all the fixin's.
- Weather in camp is reminding us of last year, with many windy days and a lot of blowing snow. Currently we are experiencing sustained winds of 20 knots with gusts to 26 knots and ¼ mile visibility. Visibility is expected to decrease to less than a ¼ mile over the next 24-36 hours. Welcome back to WAIS Divide!