

SITREP 01- November 20, 2016

Murat Aydin (Science Field Leader)

Written at McMurdo

I. PAX MOVEMENTS

- A. 3 science members (Murat Aydin, Joe Souney, Emma Kahle) and 2 drillers (Jay Johnson and Josh Goetz) arrived at Christchurch, NZ on Nov. 17th and arrived at McMurdo, Antarctica on Nov. 19th. We are scheduled to fly to South Pole station Antarctica on Nov. 21st on the 9th mission of the season to South Pole this year.

II. CARGO MOVEMENTS

- A. We picked up data loggers from ASC science cargo to hand carry on the flight to the Pole.

III. STATUS OF DRILLING

- A. No drilling planned for this field season.

IV. CORE LOGGING

- A. Nothing to report.

V. CORE PACKING

- A. Nothing to report.

VI. CORE RETRO

- A. Nothing to report.

VII. TEMPERATURES

- A. Outside temperature in McMurdo is -10°C today.

VIII. WEATHER

- A. Light snow in McMurdo.

IX. HEALTH

- A. Everyone is in good health.

X. OTHER

- A. Nothing to report.

SITREP 02- November 27, 2016

Murat Aydin (Science Field Leader)

Written at South Pole

The first real work day at the drill site was Thursday Nov. 24th. Most of the day was spent on setting up and organizing the camp. Scott Borg, Antarctic Infrastructure and Logistics Section Head, and Vladimir Papitashvili, Antarctic Astrophysics and Geospace Sciences Program Director, toured the SPICECORE site in the afternoon. They were accompanied by South Pole station area manager Bill Coughran and our program manager Leah Street from ASC.

I. PAX MOVEMENTS

- A. 3 science members (Murat Aydin, Joe Souney, Emma Kahle) and 2 drillers (Jay Johnson and Josh Goetz) arrived at arrived at the South Pole on Wednesday Nov. 23rd.

II. CARGO MOVEMENTS

- A. Nothing to report. All cargo needed to start the season is at the Pole. We are waiting for the critical cargo that we will need for borehole logging.

III. STATUS OF DRILLING

- A. No drilling planned for this field season.

IV. CORE LOGGING

- A. Logging and packing of the brittle ice started on Sunday Nov. 27th after lunch. We logged 20 m of ice (736 – 756 m) during the first afternoon session.

V. CORE PACKING

- A. Ductile ice from last year has been moved out of the storage trench on Friday Nov. 25th. It took us about 5 hours to move 55 ISC boxes, including the time spent on preparations. The boxes took up 2 AFPs. One of the AFPs has only 7 skids (normally 8 skids) and one of the skids has only 7 boxes (1 less than normal). Both AFPs are on a sled parked under the arches waiting for the first cold deck of the season. We will wait for McMurdo freezers to be ready before calling for a cold deck.

VI. CORE RETRO

- A. Nothing to report.

VII. TEMPERATURES

- A. South Pole temperatures in -28°C to -32°C (-35°C to -45°C wind chill) range since our arrival.

VIII. WEATHER

- A. Really nice weather for the most part.

IX. HEALTH

A. Everyone is in good health.

X. OTHER

A. Nothing to report.

SITREP 03 - December 05, 2016

Murat Aydin (Science Field Leader)

Written at South Pole

South Pole station had a lot of visitors this past week. Antarctic Sciences Section Head Eric Saltzman and Science Assitant Colene Haffke from NSF arrived on Monday Nov. 28th. They visited the SPICECORE site in the afternoon. A group from the National Science Advisory Board arrived on Tuesday Nov. 29th and they were accompanied by Polar Division Director Kelly Falkner, Antarctic Infrastructure Section Head Scott Borg, and Antarctic Earth Sciences Program Director Thom Wilch from NSF in addition to Eric Saltzman who was already at the station. The group was at the Pole for only a couple of hours. They received a science briefing in the science laboratory at the station that included a short SPICECORE presentation. We also had an ice core display for the group to see at the station entrance.

There was a SPICECORE science lecture on Sunday Dec. 04. The lecture was primarily an overview of preliminary data that have been generated over the last year and it was very well received.

I. PAX MOVEMENTS

- A. Ryan Bay from the SPICECORE affiliated project I-194 arrived on Tuesday Nov. 29th.

II. CARGO MOVEMENTS

- A. We were not waiting for any I-164 cargo. All I-194 cargo arrived, although one of Ryan's boxes was lost for a while and only arrived at the station today on Dec. 5th.

III. STATUS OF DRILLING

- A. No drilling planned for this field season.

IV. CORE LOGGING

- A. Logging and packing of the brittle ice (tubes 735 through 1077) ended today on Dec. 5th. Tube #1077 was the last meter we packed. There are currently 69 ISC boxes in the trench waiting for the 2nd cold deck of the season, which we hope will happen sometime from Dec. 7th through the 9th. The 69th ISC box has only 3 meters of ice.

V. CORE PACKING

- A. See above.

VI. CORE RETRO

- A. The first cold deck of the season happened around noon on Friday, Dec 2nd. This shipment included all the ductile ice left at South Pole from last year. The shipment was 2 AFPs worth, however, one of the AFPs had only 3 skids and one of those skids had only 7 seven boxes.

VII. TEMPERATURES

- A. Temperatures at the Pole were in -24°C to -31°C range this past week. The drill trench was -22 to -26 °C while we were processing ice.

VIII. WEATHER

- A. Weather has been good.

IX. HEALTH

- A. Everyone is in good health.

X. OTHER

- A. Temperature logging of the SPICECORE borehole was completed, using the IDD winch. Two different tools were used and temperatures were logged going down and also up. Up next is dust log under I-194. The dust log will be done with the intermediate depth logging winch. See IDDO report for details.

SITREP 04 - December 13, 2016

Murat Aydin (Science Field Leader)

Written at South Pole

Camp shut-down has been successfully completed. As of Monday Dec. 12th, the entire South Pole Ice Core camp was packed up, the borehole casing was extended about 4-feet above the surface, and most of the trench backfilled with snow.

I. PAX MOVEMENTS

- A. Everyone except Emma has flown to McMurdo on a Dec. 13th pax flight. Emma is scheduled to fly with the cold-deck later in the day and arrive at McMurdo very early on Dec. 14th.

II. CARGO MOVEMENTS

- A. The camp has been closed and all I-164-S cargo is packed and ready for retro, sitting in the cargo line of South Pole Station.

III. STATUS OF DRILLING

- A. No drilling planned for this field season.

IV. CORE LOGGING

- A. Logging for the season has already been completed as indicated in last week's SITREP.

V. CORE PACKING

- A. See above.

VI. CORE RETRO

- A. The second cold-deck did not happen this week. A cold deck was planned first for Dec. 9th and then for Dec. 12th but both got canceled. There is a good chance it will happen on a late night flight on the 13th.

VII. TEMPERATURES

- A. Temperatures at the Pole were in -25°C to -29°C range this past week.

VIII. WEATHER

- A. Weather has been good.

IX. HEALTH

- A. Everyone is in good health.

X. OTHER

- A. The dust log has been successfully completed (2 trips). The IDDO camera has also been successfully deployed down the borehole.