

Whillans Ice Stream Subglacial Access Research Drilling



Project Field Progress Report, 3 – 9 December, 2012

1. Summary

Many complicated parts are coming together for the planned WISSARD equipment test, though there are still significant tasks to be completed before testing can begin. All components of the drill, science platform, and traverse are coming together at the WISSARD test site. The drill and ASC teams are working on final assembly of the drill and science platforms, and science teams are actively preparing equipment and labs.

2. Environment, Health, and Safety

- One sick day during the period, one redeployed early on medical leave. In general, the WISSARD team has been in good health with no injuries.

3. WISSARD Personnel:

- One WISSARD person arrived on station - Science team: Emily McBryan. Trainings and orientations for new arrivals continued.
- Drill team on site (10 total): Bolsey, Blythe, Burnett, Carpenter, Duling, Gibson, Lemery, Melby, Rack, Roberts.
- Science team on site (19 total): Achberger, Adkins, Edwards, Fisher, Hodson, Kelly, LeBaron, Mankoff, McBryan, Michaud, Mikucki, Osment, Powell, Priscu, Schlepp, Skidmore, Trummel, Vick, Winans
- Science observer (RAE, 1 total): Alekhina
- Priscu redeployed.

4. Field conditions:

- Weather continued warm, with close to freezing temperatures. During one and a half days there was blowing wet snow. One half day was lost work time when visibility impacted transport.

5. Activity Progress:

- Science team began morning meetings to review daily activities, and evening meetings to discuss the details of science instrument testing at the test site.
- While an exceptional amount of cargo has been delivered on time, several key components of the LARS, science traverse platform, and science cargo are still outstanding, which is starting to impact activities in preparation for the test period.

- All sled units, except the field labs, have been moved to the test site and placed in their testing configuration.
- LARS crane has been mounted and certified for use.
- Most of the mechanical, plumbing, electrical, and controls system have been installed in the Reel Container Unit. The borehole UV unit was delivered and inspected, in preparation for installation. Drill and return water hoses were installed on their reels. Legs on the crescent rack system were cut and re-welded to integrate with the LARS platform. Daily drill project reports are available at: <http://www.wissard.org/publications/drill-reports>
- ASC electricians continued working with the drill team on drill system and camp power systems. Work on setting up the large generators and integration with the Power Distribution Module continues.
- Finish work on the NIU workshop and control van was completed.
- Bench top testing of the NIU instruments continued.
- Geo-micro lab set-up, testing of instruments, and receipt of cargo continued.

6. Outreach:

- A Sunday tour of the test site and drill components was held for NSF-sponsored media personnel.
- WISSARD Communication policy was finalized and distributed among all participants.
- Website improvements and blogging continued.
- Video was collected for WISSARD-specific and general USAP activities.

7. Upcoming activities:

- Complete LARS assembly and installation of crane and multi-purpose winch.
- Continue assemble of drill and preparations for test.
- Continue NIU instrument testing.
- Continue geo-micro lab prep for test.
- Drill and instrument testing scheduled to start 12 - 13 Dec.
- PI telecon: Wednesday, 12 December, 1400 MST

8. Figures



- Chem and Sed Labs ready for transit to WIS SPOT



- Crane deck pre-assembly.



- Moon pool assembly on LARS.



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