

Whillans Ice Stream Subglacial Access Research Drilling



Project Field Progress Report, 5 November, 2012

1. Summary

- Early season progress looks good and team members are optimistic about meeting the planned WISSARD schedule for 2012-13. WISSARD cargo arrives on every C-17 flight. More than half of the heavy drill cargo had been delivered, and the internal wiring and plumbing of the water filtration unit and heater/pump units is underway. The MECC is set up, and temporary power provided to the drill vans.

2. Environment, Health, and Safety

- Nothing to report

3. WISSARD Personnel:

- Most of the drill team arrived in McMurdo with minor delays during the second and fourth weeks of October, including Dar Gibson, Chad Carpenter, Graham Roberts, Daren Blythe, Justin Burnett, Jeff Lemery, and Dennis Dulling.
- Rob Edwards arrived as scheduled on 2 Nov, with Ross Powell, Tim Hodson, Mike Osment, John Winans, and Mike LeBaron from the RAGES team following closely on 5 Nov.

4. ASC:

- Brian Johnson, Julie Raine, and Marlin Webb are in McMurdo, and are very helpful coordinating the ASC WISSARD support and science traverse projects.

5. Field conditions:

- Although there has been typical October cold, overall conditions have been good and no time has been lost due to weather.

6. Cargo:

- For the most part, cargo is being delivered on time and in good condition. Heavy cargo still in the pipeline is en route to Christchurch, and on schedule to meet the planned airlift. There are a few science and drill items requiring Comair shipment.
- There have been some delays in the procurement of electrical parts necessary for the power distribution system.

7. Activity Progress:

- The drill system, some traverse components, and NIU workshop are being assembled and outfitted at the SPoTSA site near the ice runway. The drill team is focused and working hard, the drill system assembly is proceeding well, and is on schedule to meet the planned testing date in Dec. Daily drill project reports are available at: <http://www.wissard.org/publications/drill-reports>
- We are further investigating the possibility to support a smaller, roving drill for the deployment of temperature and seismic instrumentation.

8. Upcoming activities:

- Continued work on the drill and traverse components.
- Safety and operations training for science personnel recently on ice.
- RAGES equipment/instrumentation delivery and preparation.
- STLS telecon: Monday, 5 Nov, 1300 MST
- ExComm telecon: Monday, 5 Nov, 1400 MST
- PI telecon: Wednesday, 7 Nov, 1400 MST

9. Figures

- Drill hose crescents and rack on C-17



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