

TO EGRIP STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS, DANISH AND GREENLANDIC AUTHORITIES.

PROJECT EGRIP (C-16-5) – SITuation REPort (SITREP) no.05, Sunday 15th May 2016.

This SITREP covers the period 9th May– 15th May, 2016 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

Hans Christian Florian (GRL) and Chris Jacobs (UK) on traverse to (76 06' 21" N, 40 17' 45" W). At 1830 Sunday evening, they were 43 km from EGRIP and reported all well.

Movement of cargo:

7 ton equipment: Shelter, fuel, generator, food, emergency equipment on traverse.

Camp activities:

The big task is done: Trenches have been dug, the balloons inflated and all balloons are now buried under several meter snow, and the snow surface is flat again with only a few ventilation shafts and hoses sticking out of the snow.

The week began with the excavation of trenches. Then the crew continued with mounting the ventilation shafts for the trenches.

The big balloons were arranged in the bottom of the excavated trench. Then the hoses were connected and all hoses were led to a tent housing our pump station. At 1600 pumping began, and after 2 hours the small balloons were pressurized. At 2130 the large green balloon was pressurized, followed by the white NEEM balloon at 2230. Then crew began to blow snow back onto the balloons with the Pistenbully and a Yanmar. The other Pistenbully maintained a snow supply by pushing snow. We worked through the night and at 0630 the task was completed.

Work continued through the night-Thursday and at 0630 Friday morning the task was completed. Currently the snow is left to sinter, while pressure is maintained in the balloons. The snow is expected to have hardened by Monday. After finishing making the trenches, the camp markers were revised on site.

The building of the trenches and inserting the shafts and balloons has been a success through the hard work of all camp personnel, and through the careful production and supply of all necessary balloons and parts by the Danish company Presenco.

In the end of the week after finishing the balloon trenches, preparations were made for the traverse, including checking the vehicles, and packing supplies. Two persons embarked Sunday at 14:50 on the traverse to the site, where the NEEM-EGRIP traverse last year had to leave two sleds and two fuel tanks behind to save weight as the snow got difficult to negotiate. The site is 135 km from EGRIP, at 18:30 they were already 45 km from EastGRIP and with a speed of 15.5 km/h we expect them to arrive by the sleds midnight Sunday.

Further we found time to finish the stitching on the weatherports and fitting the cooks food tent with shelves.

Unfortunately the generator again stopped again the night to Sunday due to the same error on the TPO unit. This again caused the water supply to freeze. We hope to receive as replacement of the TPO by next week, when the PARCA people arrive.

Science activities:

The science activities are continuing as planned. The German firm laser based snow height sensor was set up, snow samples has been collected both from the surface and from the sides of the trenches using black 1 meter tubes. These will later be studied for Di-electric profiling (DEP).

EGRIP Camp Population: 8 people and 2 persons on traverse

EGRIP iridium numbers:

+8816 777 37835 (Camp, primary number)

+8816 234 93272 (secondary)

Weather at EGRIP:

Variable weather with sunny spells in between clouds. Temperatures between -30 to -11 C. Wind between 10-15 kt from south-west to North-west.

Kangerlussuaq activities:

As there have been no flights to camp, this week again has been quiet. We have been sorting cargo nets, and put 5 airforce pallets out so they are ready to use, this will ease the packing of airforce pallets next week prior to the next flight period in two weeks. The grey Toyota has been repaired and now awaits to be registered. Further a few items wanted in camp has been collected to be send in to EastGRIP next week with the PARCA flight.

The EGRIP FOM office is open.

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Weather in Kangerlussuaq/SFJ: First part of the week cloudy and cold. Last part of the week sunny and cloud free.

EGRIP Field Operations office,

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