



HIST-5 3-30-22
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WORLD DATA CENTER A

for

GLACIOLOGY

[SNOW AND ICE]



OPERATED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE, NOAA, BY

Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences

University of Colorado

Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.

IN REPLY ADDRESS:

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

SNOW COVER
GLACIER FLUCTUATIONS
AVALANCHES
POLAR ICE MASSES
SEA ICE
PERMAFROST
PALEOGLACIOLOGY

30 April 1981

Dr. C. R. Bentley
Geophysical and Polar Research Center
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1215 W. Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Charlie:

Further to our telephone conversation last week, I am now attaching some information regarding the current operating level of the WDC.

I think that a letter from you, which could later be reinforced by the Committee on Glaciology, should go to Dr. T. Potter, with copies to the names on the attached list, prior to the Committee meeting since there will be a NOAA-EDIS meeting of Directors of the National Data Centers in Washington on 20-21 May (which Jim Lander will attend). The letter might be along the lines of the attached draft.

In addition, I am attaching some background information and with regard to the national 'plan.' The NSIDC proposal was submitted to Dr. Potter by Alan Shapley in January 1979.

Yours sincerely,

Roger G. Barry
Director, WDC-A Glaciology

RGB:ms

Enclosures

cc: C. Bull

Outline of letter to NOAA-EDIS Director, Dr. T. Potter, re WDC-A for Glaciology

Dear Dr. Potter:

The Committee on Glaciology will be holding its annual meeting in Washington on 14-15 May, in the course of which we shall review the operations and activities of WDC-A for Glaciology. As you are aware, the Committee of Glaciology and the Committee on Geophysical Data have established a 3-man ad-hoc panel on glaciological data and their report was submitted by Dean Colin Bull on 23 September, 1980.

The Committee will also review the question of a national focus for snow and ice data. The WDC is already providing such a service although this is not yet explicitly recognized. The ad-hoc panel recommended that a national designation might be appropriate, even in the absence of immediate additional funding.

We should be pleased to have your views on these two items and, if your schedule permits, have you or an EDIS representative participate in the Glaciology Committee meeting (to take place).

I should also like to raise with you my concern over the proposed funding level for WDC-A for FY-82. I understand from Dr. Barry's March 26 memo to you that this will be about the \$150,000 level compared with their FY81 operating level of just over \$200,000. Their projected estimate for FY82 for the present staff, operating costs, publications, space rental, and university overhead is in fact \$250,000.

I am aware of your proposal to seek other agency support for snow and ice data services, but I consider that in the present fiscal climate this may be slow in forthcoming. In the view of the glaciological community The WDC is providing a valuable service which is costing relatively little. Dr. Barry's own substantial input, for example, is essentially obtained at no cost. Compared with the situation in November 1976, when the Center was transferred from USGS in Tacoma, it is now an active undertaking serving a wide range of interests. If through short-term contingencies, this operation is allowed to flounder, it may be hard to reestablish. Its viability seems greatly at risk with an effective 40 percent reduction in its guaranteed support. I hope, therefore, that a genuine effort can be made within EDIS and other divisions of NOAA, to ensure that snow and ice data receive appropriate priority.

Copy to: R. Hallgren, OA, NWS
F. Webster, OA
J. Fletcher, ERL
D. Johnson, NESS

List of Addresses:

Dr. Richard E. Hallgren
NOAA - OA
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dr. F. Webster
Acting Administrator for
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NOAA
Rockville, Maryland 20852

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RL 3-657
Boulder, CO 80303

Dr. D. Johnson
NOAA/NESS S/REL
World Weather Building, Rm. 711
Washington, DC 20233

National Snow and Ice Data Service Prospectus

It is proposed that the present WDC-A for Glaciology (Snow and Ice) activities should be extended to include national responsibilities by the establishment of a National Snow and Ice Data Service (SIDS) in Boulder, under contract from EDIS to the University of Colorado. It would be colocated with WDC-A for Glaciology (Snow and Ice).

The SIDS is necessary because there is no national service for snow and ice data; such data are at present collected operationally by a wide spectrum of agencies, institutions and individuals. Most of the spatially and temporally extensive snow and ice data sets are high priority items for climate monitoring research and assessment under the national climate programs. The coordination of coherent, consistent data sets for the numerous snow and ice parameters of climatological significance requires a sustained program of data management organized from a single center.

There seems a clear need for a center which:

- 1) has a broader perspective than exists within the mission agencies to organize the management of snow and ice data sets, the preparation of data products, and assessments of user needs;
- 2) can provide a national focal point for data related matters, especially the development of standard procedures and formats for data bases, and can ensure that appropriate data handling procedures accompany the development of new observational systems and programs.

Background

Preliminary discussions on the establishment of a National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) were held between Dr. T. Austin and WDC-A for Glaciology in April 1978. The original concept from which SIDS later evolved was developed from ideas put forth in a report titled, "Status and Effectiveness of National and World Data Centers" by the NAS Committee on Data Interchange and Data Centers (forerunner of the NAS Committee on Geophysical Data). The first draft of a proposal, presented to Dr. Austin in August 1978, outlined a vigorous program for an NSIDC operating on annual budget of about 250K. The proposal was greeted favorably but no funds were available at the time. The NSIDC proposal was again presented to Dr. T. Potter, the new EDIS Director, by Mr. A. Shapley in January 1979.

At the same time the Committee on Glaciology/Polar Research Board reviewed the NSIDC proposal. In April 1980 the (ad-hoc) Committee on Glaciological Data recommended to the Committee on Glaciology and Polar Research Board that a national designation for the NSIDC should be established in conjunction with WDC-A for Glaciology, even if additional funds were not immediately available.

WDC-A: Glaciology Roster of Full-time and Part-time Permanent Staff

Staff Member	Functional Title	Current Salary* (\$ 10 ³)	% FTE
Dr. Roger G. Barry	Director, WDC-A for Glaciology	4.1	13 (1.5 m)
Ronald L.S. Weaver	Scientific Manager	23.1	100
Ann M. Brennan	Technical Editor, GD; Library Supervisor	13.9	75
Nancy K. Hensal	Library Technician	16.8	90
Claire S. Hoffman	Information Specialist; Bibliographic Data; GLERL	17.9	100
Peter K. MacKinnon	Staff Scientist; Ice Geophysics	18.0	100
Robert G. Crane	Graduate Research Assistant; Sea Ice	2.0	7 (15% GRA)
Greg Scharfen	Graduate Research Assistant; Imagery	8.9**	50
Margaret E. Strauch	Secretary to the Director; Data Center secretary	15.4	100
Carol Pedigo	Data Entry Operator	<u>10.4</u>	<u>100</u>
TOTALS		130.6	7.35
University Overhead on Salaries and Benefits		<u>25.2</u>	
Actual Cost to WDC-A Contract		155.80	

* Current FY81 Salary and Benefits

** Tuition cost included

TOTAL COST BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA
FISCAL YEAR 1981

	Expenses (in 10 ³ \$)				Category Percentages	
	FTE	Salaries + University Overhead	Operating Expenses	Total Costs (A + B)	% of Total Cost	% FTE of Total Staff
1.1 Data Collection	.25	8.3	0	8.3	4	4
1.2 Library	1.50	24.5	7	31.5	14	21
1.3 Publications*	1.25	23.8	14	37.8	17	18
1.4 Data Exchange	.25	8.3	0	8.3	4	4
1.5 Guest Workers	.10	6.3	0	6.3	2	1
2.1 Planning, Data Management	.50	16.3	0	16.3	6	7
2.2 User Needs Assessment	.50	13.3	0	17.3	7	7
2.3 Inventories	.20	8.3	0	8.3	4	3
3.1 Snow Cover Data Sets	.25	6.3	0	6.3	3	4
3.2 Ice Core Data Sets	.50	13.3	4	17.3	8	7
3.3 Floating Ice Data Sets	1.00	17.8	8	25.8	11	14
3.4 New Product Generation	.50	12.3	7	19.3	8	7
3.5 Specialized Products	.10	6.3	0	6.3	3	1
3.6 Referral/Information Service	.10	6.3	0	6.3	3	1
4.1 Data Studies	.10	8.3	5	13.3	6	1
Total	7.10	179.70	49	228.7	100	100

* Includes GD's, New Accessions Lists, and Data Fliers

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

for WDC-A: GLACIOLOGY [SNOW AND ICE]

