Upper Mantle Structure Beneath the Whitmore Mountains, West Antarctic Rift System, and Marie Byrd Land from Body-Wave Tomography

Andrew Lloyd\textsuperscript{1}, Doug Wiens\textsuperscript{1}, Patrick Shore\textsuperscript{1}, Andrew Nyblade\textsuperscript{2}, Sridhar Anandakrishnan\textsuperscript{2}, Richard Aster\textsuperscript{3}, Audrey Huerta\textsuperscript{4}, Terry Wilson\textsuperscript{5}, Dapeng Zhao\textsuperscript{6}

Washington University in St. Louis\textsuperscript{1}, Penn State\textsuperscript{2}, New Mexico Technical University\textsuperscript{3}, Central Washington University\textsuperscript{4}, The Ohio State University\textsuperscript{5}, Tohoku University\textsuperscript{6}

As part of the International Polar Year in Antarctica, 37 seismic stations have been installed across West Antarctica as part of the Polar Earth Observing Network (POLENET). 23 stations form a sparse backbone network of which 21 are co-located on rock sites with a network of continuously recording GPS stations. The remaining 14 stations, in conjunction with 5 backbone stations, form a seismic transect extending from the Ellsworth Mountains across the West Antarctic Rift System (WARS) and into Marie Byrd Land. Here we present preliminary P and S wave velocity models of the upper mantle from regional body wave tomography using P and S travel times from teleseismic events recorded by the seismic transect during the first year (2009-2010) of deployment. Preliminary P and S wave velocity models indicate that the upper mantle beneath the Whitmore Mountains are seismically faster than the resolved regions beneath the WARS and Marie Byrd Land. A significant slow velocity anomaly is observed beneath Marie Byrd Land centered on Mt. Sidley and slightly slow velocity anomalies near the mean of the model are pervasive beneath the WARS.