

DIRECTORATE OF MINING  
WITH COMMISSIONER  
OF MINES AT SVALBARD

  
Direktoratet for mineralforvaltning  
med Bergmesteren for Svalbard



**Directorate of Mining**  
with Commissioner of Mines at Svalbard



**Directorate of Mining with Commissioner of Mines at Svalbard (DMF) is the state agency for administration and exploitation of mineral resources in Norway and at Svalbard, subject to Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries.**

#### **DMF shall**

- ensure sustainable and socially responsible administration of mineral resources in Norway and Svalbard
- facilitate growth in the mineral industry through good and efficient processing
- assign permissions to mineral operations pursuant to the Minerals act and the Mining code for Svalbard
- be the state agency concerning mineral matters

#### **Legislations**

- Minerals Act
- The Mining Code for Svalbard

#### **Minerals Act**

The purpose of the Act is to promote and ensure socially responsible administration and use of mineral resources in accordance with the principle of sustainable development.

## ROLE AND AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY ACCORDING TO THE MINERALS ACT



### Exploration permits

An exploration permit for the state's minerals\* gives entitlement to exploration within a defined area and is not a right related to a defined deposit. The permit holder has a right to explore for all the deposits of the state's minerals within the permit area.

### Extraction permits

An individual or a company holding the exploration permit with best priority, has the right to apply for an extraction permit. In order to be granted an extraction permit, the applicant must substantiate the finding of a deposit of the state's minerals, which is or may be economically viable within a reasonable period of time.

### Operating licenses

The extraction of mineral deposits exceeding more than 10 000 m<sup>3</sup> of matter requires an operation license. Any extraction of natural stone requires an operating license. The license must be granted by DMF prior to commencement of the operation. An operating license can only be granted to the holder of an extraction permit. This applies to both the state's and the ground owner's minerals.

### Supervisory responsibility

DMF's supervisory responsibility embraces mineral activities in Norway.

DMF shall supervise and make sure:

- that exploration, pilot extraction and operations are undertaken in accordance with good mining practice pursuant to the requirements of the Minerals Act
- that conditions, approved plans of operations and orders given in or pursuant to the Minerals Act are complied with
- that the duty to implement safety measures and the duty to clean up are complied with
- that operations do not result in unnecessary pollution or unnecessary damage to the environment

*\*State's minerals: All metals with a specific gravity above 5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, and all minerals containing these metals, as well as titanium and arsenic and ores containing these metals.*



Samfoto, Dag G. Nordsveen

## CONSULTATIVE BODY

DMF is consultative body considering mineral resources in municipal and regional land-use planning.

DMF shall:

- make sure mineral resources are safeguarded in regional and local planning
- make sure mineral resources are secured and available for the future
- contribute to establish predictable conditions for the industry
- be an adviser for municipals during planning processes

## HISTORIC MINING SITES

### – clean-up and safety measures

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries has held responsibility for the sites of abandoned historic mines after an agreement dating from 1988.

DMF carries out remedial measures on behalf of the Ministry following dialogue with, and requirements from the Norwegian Environment Agency. DMF also carries out mapping and investigation of leakage from abandoned mining areas and monitors the results of measures taken. These include solution studies and testing.

DMF also carries out safety measures in areas of historic mining sites where the state has a responsibility.

## DMF'S ROLE AT SVALBARD

The Svalbard Treaty, signed in 1920, granted Norway sovereignty of the archipelago, but gave the right to own property, including mineral rights, to nationals of all the signatory countries.

The Mining Code for Spitsbergen (Svalbard) was approved by Royal Decree in 1925 and includes rules for the acquisition of mining permits and for subsequent mining activities.

At Svalbard, DMF administrates:

- exploration permits
- reports from discoveries
- extraction permits

DMF has a staffed office in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, that is assisting with advice and information on registered occurrences and deposits of mineral resources.

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