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Reg. number 3.5.1-1035-2013
To CLT/HER/WHC/EUR/17/9982

World Heritage Centre
Att: Dr Mechtild Rössler
Director
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
FRANCE

Mining projects in the vicinity of the World Heritage property Laponian Area, Sweden

Dear Dr Mechtild Rössler,

The Swedish National Heritage Board and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has received the letter from Ms Elenaria Amanda Gydemo Östbom expressing concerns about the application to the Mining Inspectorate for an exploitation concession for rights to mine iron ore at Kallak (Gállok). The concerns expressed in the letter concerning the potential impact on reindeer herding are considered in the current application process. The Swedish National Heritage Board, in agreement with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency would like to update the World Heritage Centre regarding the question of a mining project at Kallak near the World Heritage property the Laponian Area.

Previous correspondence with the World Heritage Centre

Swedish National Heritage Board
Storgatan 41
Box 5405
SE-114 84 Stockholm
Phone +46 8-5191 8000
E-mail riksant@raa.se
Website www.raa.se
Org.nr 202100-1090
Plusgiro 59994-4
Bankgiro 5052-3620

February 4 th 2013	A landowner and members of three Sami communities write to the World Heritage Centre expressing concerns about the mining project at Kallak
February 12 th 2013	World Heritage Centre T/WHC/6155/SE/JSW
June 18 th 2013	Swedish National Heritage Board and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency 3.5.1-1035-2013
January 10 th 2014	Swedish National Heritage Board and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency 3.5.1-1035-2013
February 11 th 2014	ICOMOS Technical Review for WH property Laponian Are

December 3 rd 2015	Swedish National Heritage Board 3.5.1-1035-2013
February 26 th 2016	ICOMOS and IUCN Technical Review for WH property Laponian Area
August 2 nd 2017	World Heritage Centre CLT/HER/WHC/EUR/17/9982

Current situation

When we last informed the World Heritage Centre the case was under review by the Swedish Government. The Swedish Government decided that the case should be referred back to the Swedish Mining Inspectorate for further consideration (October 30th 2016). The Swedish Government also indicated in its decision that the potential impact on the World Heritage property Laponia should be considered in that upcoming and renewed process.

During the renewed process the Swedish Mining Inspectorate collected opinions from Jokkmokk Iron Mines AB (the company) and the County Administrative Board as well as from the Swedish National Heritage Board and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The Swedish Mining Inspectorate gave the company opportunity to provide additional material. The Swedish National Heritage Board and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency made a statement – declaring the opinion that the material made available at that particular time wasn't sufficient (March 27th 2017). The County Administrative Board's point of view in its subsequent decision was that the potential impact on the world heritage Laponia had not been fully investigated by the company. It deemed that this needed to be done before it could assess whether the company's Environmental Impact Assessment was sufficient for a decision according to the Environmental Code (June 16th 2017).

Since the County Administrative Board did not provide the required assessment of the Environmental Impact Assessment, the Swedish Mining Inspectorate was unable to issue an exploitation concession. The Swedish Mining Inspectorate therefore referred the case back to the Swedish Government (June 30th 2017).

The Swedish Government has different possibilities to close the case. It will either issue an exploitation concession, or it could deny to issue such a concession. A third possible alternative is that the Swedish Government would refer the case back to the Swedish Mining Inspectorate a second time.

As of yet, no decision has been made, and no timetable for the process of consideration has been presented by the Swedish Government. We would like to emphasize that the Swedish Government indicated, in its previous decision (October 30th 2016), that the potential influence on the World Heritage property Laponia should be considered in the current renewed process. Furthermore, the Swedish Government has asked the County Administrative Board for an additional statement (October 6th 2017). The statement should include, among other things, an assessment of the potential influence on the World Heritage property. Current deadline for this statement is December 1st 2017.

With this information we hope that we have explained the developments since 3 December 2015. The Swedish National Heritage Board and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency would like to thank the World Heritage Centre for the inquiry and welcome a response to this update.



Qaisar Mahmood
Swedish National Heritage Board

Copy:

Swedish Ministry of Culture

Swedish Ministry of the Environment and Energy

Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

County Administrative Board of Norrbotten

Sweden's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, Paris

Swedish Mining Inspector Åsa Persson

Jokkmokk Municipality

ICOMOS Sweden

Swedish National Commission for UNESCO

Laponiatjuottjudus

