



Universitetssenteret på Svalbard - UNIS
222.3a.h01.06
Longyearbyen

Att.: Gareth Steven Lord

**SYSSEMESTEREN
PÅ SVALBARD**

Our date:
05.08.2021

Our reference
20/01813-15

Your date:
09.07.2021

Reply to research application - RiS-ID 11543 - Geological controls on the prospectivity and shallow reservoirs in the Barents sea and Svalbard

The Governor refers to your application dated 09.07.2021, received by us 12.07.2021, RiS-ID 11543, concerning your project “*Geological controls on the prospectivity of shallow reservoirs in the Barents sea and Svalbard (ARCEX)*”. We also refer to your e-mail with 1 attachment to the Governor dated 12.07.2021 concerning the application.

Application

The research project RiS 11543 will focus upon collecting detailed sedimentological and stratigraphical data across the Permian – Triassic boundary. It is noted that the current application is also on behalf on RiS-ID 11619. However, it is also specified that (quotation): “*This application is only for research locations indicated in the north eastern area of Svalbard. Those indicated for the Vendomdalen area of Central Spitsbergen have already been assessed by Sysselmester (Ref: 20/01813-12).*”

On this basis we only process the part of the application regarding the locations north-east in Svalbard, and we assume that only the sections relating to RiS-project 11543 in the application-appendix relating to sampling methods apply in this case. The sampling method is thus described as follows:

Small geological hand samples ca 5cm*5cm*5cm will be collected throughout the study area. Approximately 250-350 hand samples will be recovered equating to approximately 80-115 kg of rock material - assuming an approximate bulk rock density of 2,6 g/cm³ and a sample volume of 125 cm³.

The field-locations applied for are in the eastern part of Svalbard, within Nordaust-Svalbard nature reserve and within Søraust-Svalbard nature reserve, cf. figure 1. Fieldwork will be performed in the period from 10.09.2021-30.09.2021.

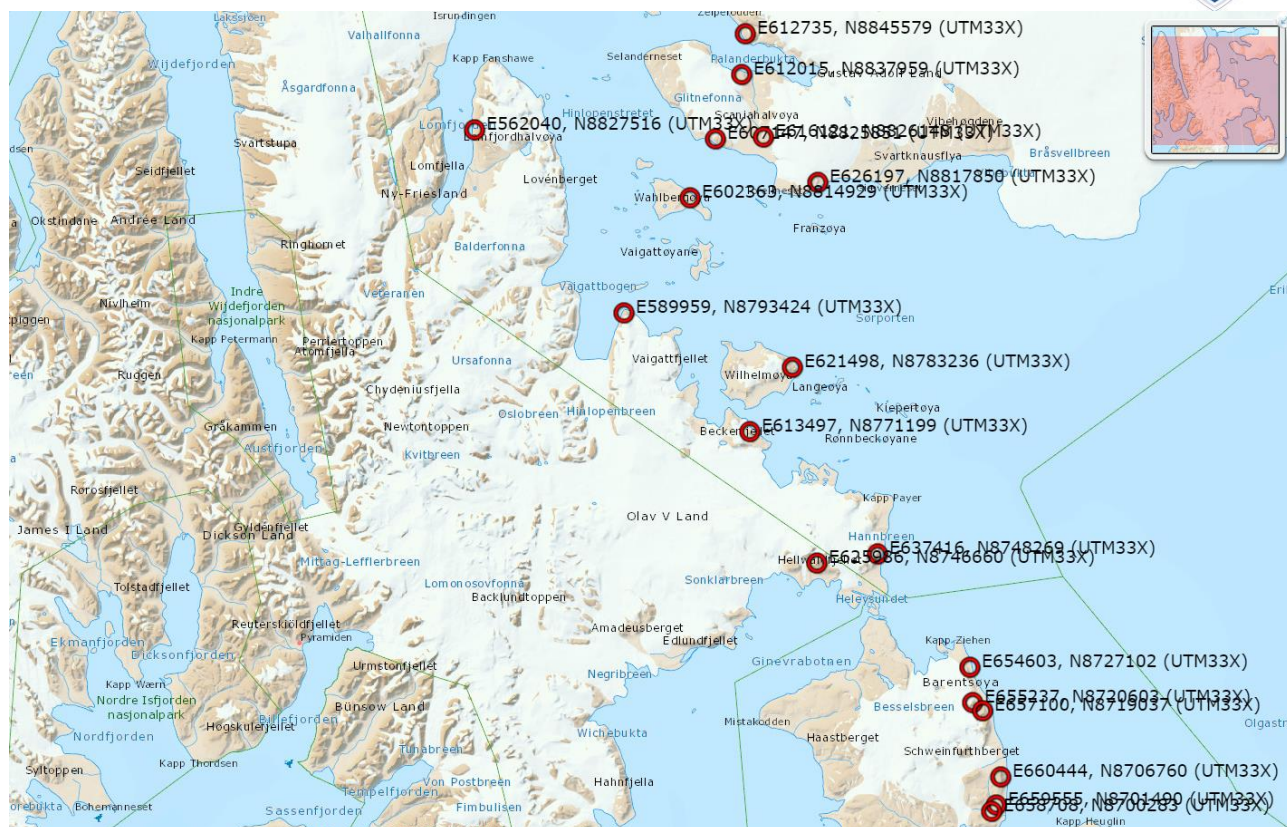


Figure 1: Field-sites applied for.

Drone photogrammetry will be conducted using a Mavic 2 drone ~30x30 cm in dimension. Take-off and landing will be conducted from a suitable location on firm ground away from vegetation and wildlife. Flights will according to the application adhere to Norwegian CAA regulations regarding the use of drones.

Regulations

The Svalbard Environmental Protection Act of 15 June 2001 apply. According to the Act section 25 all species of flora and fauna, including their eggs, nests and lairs, are protected. Section 37 give the Governor the authority to grant exemptions for scientific purposes or when other special reasons so indicate.

The field work is planned within Nordaustlandet nature reserve and Sørøst-Svalbard nature reserve where the Regulation relating to the national parks South-Spitsbergen, Forlandet and North West - Spitsbergen, on the nature reserves North East-Svalbard and South East-Svalbard, and on the nature reserves for birds on Svalbard of 1 May 2014 (the Regulation) apply.

According to the Regulation section 26, plants and fossils are not to be removed, and shall be protected against damage and disturbance of every kind that is not caused by regular traffic. Section 25 provides that all mammals and birds, including their eggs, nests and lairs, are protected against damage and disturbance of every kind. Furthermore section 23 determines that these areas are protected against all measures that can impact landscape, terrain, or disturbance of the environment, included different installations.



According to the Regulation section 28, the Governor may grant exemptions for scientific purposes as long as this does not conflict with the purpose of the nature reserves.

The Governor's considerations

The sample sizes are small, the total sampling quantity modest, and the sampling gear is light and handheld. As we consider, the sampling entails an insignificant risk of negative impact on landscape, terrain or disturbance of the environment, cf. the Regulation relating to Nordaustlandet nature reserve and Sørøst-Svalbard nature reserve section 23 and 26. Further, we consider that careful sampling with such small sample sizes will not conflict with the purpose of the two current nature reserves, nor significantly impact the conservation values. We assume that all traffic in the purpose of sampling will be made carefully to avoid any negative impact on resident flora or fauna, cf. the Act sections 25 and 73. Please note that there are several walrus haulout sites in your current field area, where you should take special precautions to prevent interfering. Documented sites are located as follows:

- Buchholzbukta
- Wilhelmøya south - Uleneset
- Wahlbergøya -Ardneset
- Scaniahalvøya på Nordaustlandet: Torellneset, Augustabukta, Glitneset
- Palanderbukta south – at the mouth of Palanderdalen

Flying with drones does not require a special permission from the Governor itself. In accordance with The Svalbard Environmental Protection Act it is however prohibited to disturb birds and animals. More detailed information is given in attachment 1.

The purpose of the sampling is clearly scientific, and according to the application there are several scientific arguments for the need of sampling within the protected areas. On this basis the Governor consider that we can grant permission for the measures as described in the application.

The Governor's decision

The Governor has considered your application and made the following decision:

Under the provisions of the Regulation relating to the national parks South-Spitsbergen, Forlandet and North West - Spitsbergen, on the nature reserves North East-Svalbard and South East-Svalbard, and on the nature reserves for birds on Svalbard of 1 May 2014 section 28 c), The Governor grants The University Centre in Svalbard by project owner Gareth Steven Lord permission to sample rock material as described and located in the application in South-Spitsbergen National park during the period 10.09.2021-30.09.2021.

The Governor's permission is granted on the following conditions:

- The total amount of rock material to be sampled during the fieldwork sums up to a maximum of approximately 115 kg, distributed on 250-300 hand samples ca. 5*5*5 cm.
- Digging and sampling must be done with special care, as to minimize negative impact on flora, fauna and terrain. The traces produced by the sampling shall be made as little visible as possible.
- The project owner shall provide for the immediate reporting of possible accidents/irregularities to the Governor.



- The project shall submit a report from the field work by **1st of November 2021**. The template for this report can be found on the Governors web pages.
- All equipment you bring during the field trip, and all waste items, are to be removed and brought back to Longyearbyen when the field expedition is finished. Garbage shall not be burned, except clean untreated wood.
- When carrying out the projects, the researchers shall show consideration towards other users of the areas in such a way that the research does not seem provoking or destroy people's wilderness experience.
- These exemptions are only valid for the people included in the projects.
- A copy of this permission must be brought along during the fieldwork.

Duty of care

The Governor calls attention to the duty of care in the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act § 5 first sentence, *"Any person who is staying in or operates an undertaking in Svalbard shall show due consideration and exercise the caution required to avoid unnecessary damage or disturbance to the natural environment or cultural heritage."*

Right to complain

According to Norwegian law you are entitled to complain about the present decision. Written complaints must be submitted within three weeks of receiving this letter. The complaint must be submitted to the Governor.

Regards

Kristin Heggelund
Head of Environment Protection

Ingunn Løvdal
Advisor nature management

<i>This document is approved and expedited electronically without signature</i>

Copy

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Miljødirektoratet

Attachments

Regulations of the use of drones on Svalbard, english