



RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF

BEOWULF MINING PLC

HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 11:00 AM.

Question 1:

The Sami have maintained an uninterrupted presence in northern Scandinavia since time immemorial. Long before northern Sweden was colonised, reindeer herders roamed the mountains and woodlands, herding their reindeer west towards the mountains in the spring and east towards the winter grazing areas in the autumn.

This way of life is still very much how the Sami live today. Reindeer herding is one of the very few indigenous livelihoods that is possible to adopt to a more modern lifestyle, using modern technology but with the same respect for nature and the environment that the Sami have managed to maintain despite extensive colonisation and exploitation of Sami land in all of northern Scandinavia.

How is it possible to construct a mine in the middle of the Sami ancient migratory routes, effectively blocking the traditional migration of the reindeer, without inflicting crucial damage to this unique way of life?

Answer 1

The history of Northern Sweden and its people cannot easily be summarised in a few sentences. However, it is true that it was inhabited by the Sami since time immemorial, and that their livelihood has long since been tightly tied to reindeer – initially hunting and later herding. In Sweden, a Sami livelihood based on reindeer herding is protected in law and although only a small minority of those with Sami heritage are engaged in this activity, it is extant over practically all of the areas where it has been historically conducted, approximately 50 per cent of Sweden's land area. This is in contrast to most other colonised territories where indigenous livelihoods often have been pushed aside and become for various reasons impossible and/or unviable.

In Sweden, a livelihood based on reindeer herding continues to this day, at the same time as the reindeer herding areas have seen extensive economic development. Thus, there are many examples in Sweden where mining and reindeer herding coexist, and where agreements are reached between companies and the reindeer herders, including commercial terms. Also, there has been no case of any reindeer herding cooperative being forced to close because of any form of industrial activity, not just mining. The Kallak project covers approximately 0.5 per cent of one Sameby's grazing lands and when it comes to practicalities, the mine can be designed to accommodate the needs of reindeer herders and management plans can be developed to enable us to work together.

Further, modern reindeer herding requires a functioning modern society, which in turn requires economic opportunities and development. Kallak is situated in an area of population and economic decline. In this area, the Kallak project would mean significant economic development which supports society at large, the community in Jokkmokk, including the wider Sami community and also reindeer herders and their families. Thus, it is not a case of one activity or the other, both can prosper, livelihoods and culture can be both protected and improved.



Question 2:

With the latest ruling of the Supreme Court in the Girjas case regarding Sami communities' rights in mind, and also knowing that the same conditions are in place in the Kallak area, how is it possible to construct a mine in this area, effectively blocking the communities from fishing and hunting in the proposed mining area?

Answer 2

The Girjas ruling is concerned with providing rights to fishing and hunting on state owned land in the westernmost part of Girjas. Girjas has after the ruling committed to ensuring that locally based fishermen and hunters that are not part of Girjas will also in the future be allowed to fish and hunt in these areas. The judgment does not affect the examination of the Kallak application, which is being considered under the Mineral Act and the Environmental Code.