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Q&A EXTRA

WINTER 2020



INTERVIEW WITH MONIKA ØKSNES, OPERATIONS MANAGER

Ground breaking

Day-to-day life on-site at Bjerkreim

PROFILE

MONIKA ØKSNES WORKS AS OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR NORGE MINING. IN THIS ROLE SHE HAS A VARIETY OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND IS CONTACT PERSON FOR DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS. MONIKA HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN IN GEOLOGICAL STUDIES, SHE PROMOTED IN 2019. MONIKA'S MAIN FIELD OF STUDIES WAS IN QUATERNARY GEOLOGY AND PALEO CLIMATE.

What is your role on-site?

My role on-site is to handle logistics and stakeholder engagement. That can include anything from acquiring supplies, contacting landowners, and liaising with both local and national politicians. Whenever I have the time, I also assist the geological team.

How is the actual situation on-site, what are the actual activities that are going on?

We currently have three drill rigs running and a core logging facility to examine and process the drill core.

The activities begin with contacting landowners and mapping the rocks in the field to make sure we find the ideal locations to drill. We prepare a drilling platform and align the drill rig in the correct position. The drill produces cylindrical lengths of rock (core) which are placed in plastic boxes. These boxes are delivered to the geology team, at the core logging facility. There, the core is logged, analysed, and sampled, before the samples are shipped to a laboratory for further geochemical analysis.

We are also undertaking a geophysical survey in an area north of Egersund. This will develop our understanding of the minerals in that area.

What is the reaction of the local population/locals on Norge Mining's activities?

The reaction of the locals to Norge Mining's activities is mostly positive. The majority find this project very interesting and think it will

be beneficial for the region. Landowners are happy with the way we operate and think we act honestly and respectfully. There is obviously some scepticism surrounding our operations, predominantly regarding people's reservations towards the mining industry in general. Therefore, we must continue to show that we operate openly, honestly, and respectfully to develop our good relations with the surrounding communities.

How many people are working for Norge Mining and what are their professions/skills?

In total we have 30-35 people working on-site, comprising a cook/housekeeper, a 14-person drill crew employed by Energold, and the remaining staff are qualified geologists employed by SRK Exploration and Norge Mining, through TEØK AS.

How does Covid-19 influence the operations on-site?

Covid-19 has challenged logistics, however precise forward planning has enabled us to continue working as normal, whilst adhering to Norwegian governmental rules.

How does upcoming winter influence the operations on-site?

With the upcoming winter we must consider the bad weather and low temperatures which will make both the drilling and analysis of drill core more difficult. To address this, we have already winterized the core yard and Energold have made the necessary preparations to prevent the water supply to the drills from freezing.

How many drillings have been finished so far, what is the total length of all drilling holes?

As of Saturday, 16 November, we have completed 47 holes, with holes 48, 49 and 50 ongoing. The total drilled length is 20,821.75 meters.

What was the most critical situation so far?

The most critical situation so far has been arranging entry of specialists to the project from outside of Norway, both in terms of work permitting and the frequently changing rules regarding quarantining and Covid-19. We have also had to acquire additional accommodation to ensure we have capacity for quarantining and, if needed, isolation purposes. Making sure we undertake the necessary precautions to prevent a potential outbreak of Covid-19 is key, not only because it will affect the project, but we also have a responsibility when it comes to the local communities where we operate.

What was your most valuable experience so far?

My most valuable experience so far has been involved with stakeholder engagement. I find it important that landowners and the local community are well informed and content with our operations, and I am happy to be a part of a company who think the same.

I must also mention that it has been a great experience to work with so many talented and driven people here at Norge Mining.