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Pål Thjømmøe is a new employee at Norge Mineraler: – I will be a stone in the shoe



NEW JOB: The first day of work will be spent setting up the PC and getting to know the new colleagues. Pål Thjømmøe is looking forward to having more people around him in the office. "Having more people to sit with is something I've missed," he says. Photo: Ingunn Walderhaug

Pål Thjømmøe has a new job in Norge Mineraler. Now he will work on finding sustainable solutions for the mining company.

Tuesday was Pål Thjømmøe's first working day in Norge Mineraler. He spent the day on something he has long and good experience from; namely, to take a school class in geosciences from Randaberg on a round trip. They studied the geology of the area, looked at the Norge Mineraler showroom at Langholmen. And they visited a place where the company has conducted core drilling.

Not unlike much of what Thjømøe has been doing as general manager and later geologist in Magma Geopark, that is.

"Now I've been working with the geopark for 18 years. I think it's healthy to change jobs eventually. At the same time, there are many of the same elements in the two jobs," says Thjømøe.

Sustainable opportunities

Wednesday is Thjømøe's first office day at Langholmen. He happily shows his new office, where he has a panoramic view of Søråsdalen.

He will probably be able to take school classes and visitors on several trips, but it is not primarily dissemination that he will be working on. There will probably be quite a few hours at the new office.

The job title is *sustainable business solutions manager*. Maybe you could call it responsible for sustainable business solutions, or something along those lines. (EJ – translated from NO)

His experience from Magma Geopark has given him specific experience in the field, as Thjømøe participated in the Arctic Hub project, which focuses on sustainable solutions in the mining industry, among other things.

Thjømøe's tasks at Norge Mineraler will include investigating opportunities for the use of residual resources that necessarily accompany mining. What can tailings be used for – and how can most of it be put to good use?

"I used to work at NCC Fjordstein and have sold such products to Europe. That's why I know a little about the market," says Thjømøe.

"The vision of Norsk Bergindustri is zero residual resources," adds Erik Joa, public affairs officer for Norway Minerals.

"And eventually there will probably be taxation on the tailings," Thjømøe points out.



QUITE A VIEW: "I think I've got the nicest office," smiles a satisfied Pål Thjømmøe. Photo: Ingunn Walderhaug

Solutions for posterity

If Norge Mineraler establishes mining operations in Dalane, the mine will potentially move over time, as the minerals are extracted.

"Therefore, one must first work on producing as little as possible of tailings. Good solutions for this must be found from the start, for example by rebuilding the landscape as the mine moves forward," explains Thjømmøe.

So, in addition to finding solutions for how to deal with tailings, he will also work on looking at how the company can most favourably restore the landscape after mining.

"You can do this in consultation with the landowner. Maybe the area should be returned to a field, maybe a lake should be established. The areas can have benefit a lot, Thjømmøe explains, and says that he will work on creating models and animations that can illustrate what such a reconstruction of landscapes can actually look like.

Technology is developing at a great pace, he emphasizes, and points out that in new mining operations completely different solutions can be found than those that have been used previously.

"It's very exciting, and a lot to look at. It's coming brand new methods and standards for sustainable mining"

The company's environmental watchdog

Thjømøe knows that his tasks will be adapted as the project develops further. Norge Mineraler is now in a phase where the first test drilling has been completed and where the findings are being analysed. Only when the analyses are ready will the company decide whether and how to proceed.

Now is a good time to explore all the possibilities, says public affairs officer Joa.

"It's about turning every stone, getting over the hurdles and finding the opportunities. There is an increasing need for elements and a need to extract more. So even though things are obviously challenging and difficult, there is a lot that is possible, Joa states.

He believes Thjømøe's contribution will strengthen the project.

"I will be a rock in the shoe, and I feel obliged to speak up if there is anything that can be done better," promises Thjømøe.

"It's a good match, and it's an important point that you should be a rock in the shoe," Joa nods back.