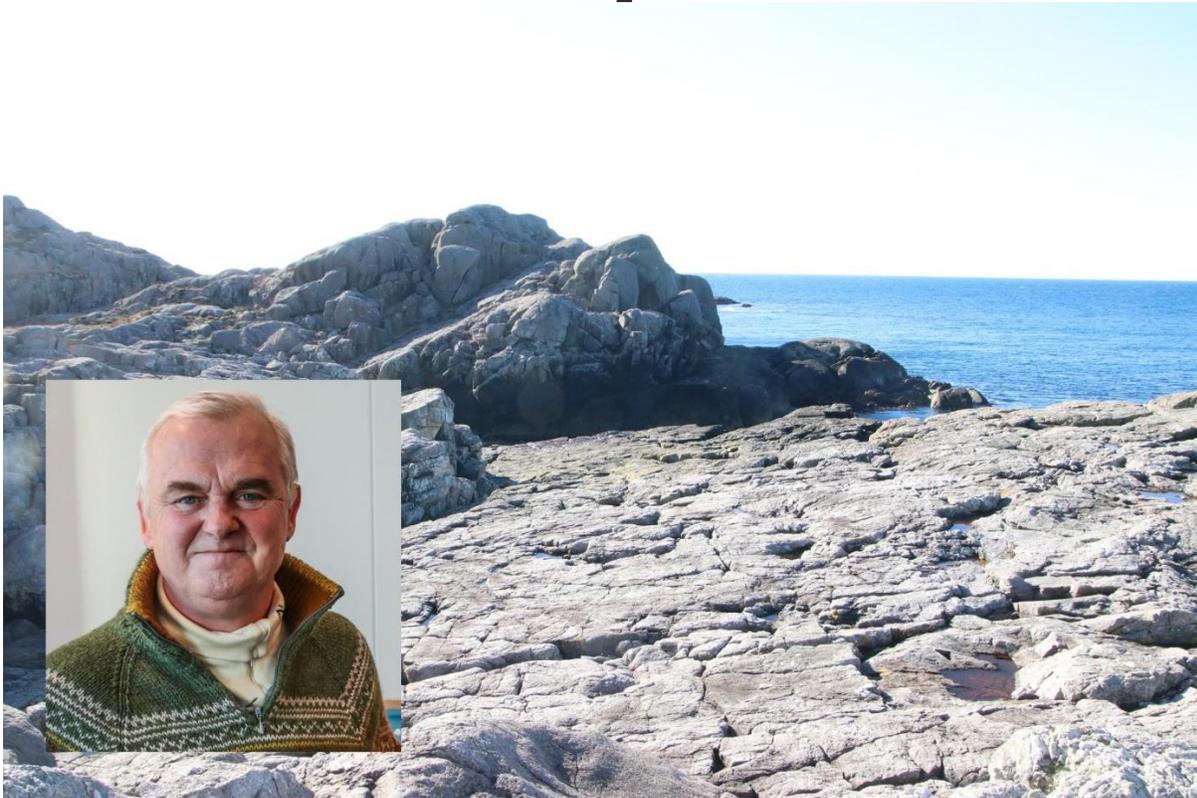


Article DT 140224, 14.02.24 21:29 Ingve Aalbu, NM Svåheia port option

[Eigersund, Business | Norge Mineraler is ready to lift the veil: "Svåheia is the best option now \(dalane-tidende.no\)](https://dalane-tidende.no)

Norge Mineraler is ready to lift the veil: "Svåheia is the best option now



PRESENTING NEWS: Erik Joa (inset) and Norge Mineraler invite to an information meeting on Thursday evening. To Dalane Tidende, the public affairs officer reveals that Lædre (picture) stands out as the best alternative for a shipping port. Photo: Sylvie Assersen Skadberg

There has been much discussion about a possible port for the shipment of minerals in Nordasundet. Now Norge Mineraler reveals that Svåheia stands out as the best alternative.

On Thursday evening, Norway Minerals invites you to an information meeting in the community center at Helleland. There will then be more news about the big mining project. According to public affairs officer Erik Joa of Norge Mineraler, many people should make the trip.

"We want to encourage as many people as possible to come to the meeting. This applies to people from both Eigersund, Dalane and all the surrounding areas who have an interest in this, says Joa to Dalane Tidende.

- So this is not just interesting for Helleland, even if it is there that the meeting is held?

"We have our deposits in the Helleland area, but the project also involves processing. Then we must have a port solution. The plans therefore potentially affect large parts of Dalane, the public relations officer responds.



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Asked questions to Norge Mineraler: - Will it be possible to live in the area in the future, if there is mining?

- Is about how the plans take shape

In early December it became known that Eigersund Industry and Port and Norge Mineraler had entered into an initially secret agreement on port development in Nordåsundet, more specifically in Maurholen. Now it turns out that this is not the most relevant solution.

"The way the plans for mineral extraction, processing and shipment are now taking shape, Svåheia is the best alternative for shipping. But it is about technical assumptions and other conditions that may change in the further process. Nordasundet is still a relevant alternative, and the work to investigate this will continue, signals Erik Joa.

- What is it about the plans that makes Svåheia stand out anyway?

"As mentioned, this involves a number of technical factors, but the number of possible conflicts of interest is also a factor. Important keywords are transport solutions, encroachment on nature and storage space, the public relations officer responds.



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Have looked at the Boknafjorden-Grenland section

Svåheia Eiendom AS has previously launched the idea of a separate harbour near Lædre. Early estimates from maritime chief Tommy Bjellås in Eigersund Business and Port showed that such a project could quickly cost half a billion kroner. He was unable to calculate the measure home. But that could change if Norge Mineraler joins a collaboration. At the same time, Erik Joa acknowledges that the port at Svåheia is not a problem- and conflict-free solution either.

"Everything we do involves small and large challenges. A great many conditions are affected. An important reason why we invite you to an information meeting this week is that we want to inform about the upcoming processes and how we will organise our work, including impact assessments, emphasises Public Affairs.

- Do you have other alternatives besides Svåheia and Nordasundet?

"As of today, it is Svåheia that is most relevant, and then comes Nordasundet. But when we started looking at this, we considered shipping and logistics in an area from Boknafjorden in the north to Grenland in the east. Since then, Eigersund Industry and Port has taken a position early on, with a desire to achieve this locally. For our part, it is important that everything should be as locally sourced as possible. We are concerned with CO2 accounting and climate impact," assures Erik Joa.



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Not giving up on plans for a new industrial port: "We envisage a long process of rezoning and developing the area at Svåheia"

Truck is 'completely out of the question, anyway'

A port on Svåheia will also have great advantages, he points out.

"The issues surrounding transport to and from Kaupanes will then be completely different. Some of the local transport from Nord-Jæren can also be via boat to Svåheia, Joa points out.

"But if minerals are to be transported to Svåheia for shipment, can that create correspondingly heavy traffic and then some?" How do you envisage transporting the minerals to Svåheia?

"We have previously said that we have considered four options. The first is truck, but we consider that completely out of the question anyway. The other solutions are conveyor belts, transport via pipes and transport via rail. As for conveyor belts, it can go both in the day and in the tunnel. The difference between pipes and pipes is that the mass in the former case is supplied with water and pumped as so-called "slurry". It is a solution known from Titania, among other things," explains Erik Joa.

– Can be transported on kilometre-long conveyor belts

He emphasizes that none of the alternatives have been ruled out, except for transport by truck.

- Which one appears to be the best right now, I don't want to say anything about for now. But maybe something will be said about it at the meeting, signals the public relations.

"Can Egersund become a mineral port?" [was asked in an article in Dalane Tidende in September 2021](#). The topic was a concept study prepared on behalf of Eigersund Business and Port. The study was about how to transport minerals from the mining area to the quayside. Two alternatives were highlighted, Svåheia and Nordasundet, and the possibility of "transporting minerals over land on large conveyor belts, several kilometres long, was pointed out. Such a belt in Brazil, for example, can carry 1,500 tons per hour. That equates to a truck every 72 seconds."



READ ALSO:

Can Egersund become a mineral port?

Soon ready to start the planning process

Norge Mineraler recently had a preparatory meeting with the council and envisages starting the planning process "within a reasonable time". At the information meeting in the community centre at Helleland, Norconsult will also be present. The company is Norge Mineralers' advisor on impact assessment and planning process.

– We will say a lot about the further process at Thursday's meeting, says Erik Joa.

The latest estimates by Norge Mineraler indicates that there are mineral resources of 3.4 billion tonnes in three areas that have been investigated near Helleland. At Øygrei and Storeknuten/Høyland [it is most natural to have open quarries](#), the company has previously stated, while at Skeipstad one envisages a combination of open mine and mine underground.

According to a rough estimate from Norge Mineraler, the municipalities of Dalane could be left with NOK 160 million in annual additional revenue, if there is mining in the Helleland area.