

SGU Expands National Interest Area for Pellivuoma and Sahavaara-Tapuli

The Geological Survey of Sweden has decided to expand the national interest area for the mineral deposits Pellivuoma and Sahavaara-Tapuli in Pajala Municipality. The decision is based on new criteria that highlight the importance of material supply for society, both nationally and within the EU.

The Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) continuously reviews mineral deposits designated as areas of national interest. The agency has now conducted a review and expansion of the national interest designation for the Pellivuoma and Sahavaara-Tapuli deposits, based on new assessment criteria—particularly emphasizing the importance of these resources for societal supply preparedness.

The agency has concluded that the deposits meet the new requirements to qualify as areas of national interest. This means that the existing area designated for valuable substances and minerals is now being expanded. The iron ore present in the area is critical for steel production and plays an important role in supply security for both Sweden and Europe. In addition, the area surrounding Pellivuoma and Sahavaara-Tapuli is well-defined, thoroughly investigated, and well-documented.

“The continued designation of these deposits as being of national interest, along with the expansion of the area, is a clear signal from SGU about their significant value—both nationally and within the EU—on top of their important local and regional contribution in Tornedalen. It further strengthens the case for a long-term, sustainable mining industry in Pajala Municipality and is fully in line with our new environmental permit,” says Hans Djurberg, Head of Sustainability at Kaunis Iron.

The area of national interest for the deposits overlaps with a national interest area for reindeer husbandry, which in this region is practiced by the Muonio Sámi village. SGU’s position is that different types of national interests can coexist within the same area.

“It is important that dialogue between different stakeholders continues, and that we find constructive solutions regarding future land use,” says Hans Djurberg.

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Image Attachments**Tapuli open-pit mine September**