

Nick Horne

Reykjavík, 11. október 2022  
UST202209-235/Þ.V.B.  
09.06.01

**Subject: permit to fly a drone at lake Mývatn**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Nick Horne, dated September 30<sup>th</sup> 2022, for a permit to fly a drone at lake Mývatn and within Snæfellsjökull national park.

Mývatn and Laxá area is protected according to act no. 97/2004. Permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed for construction work and all activity that can affect wildlife, geological formations, vegetation and landscape in the area.

Snæfellsjökull National park is protected as a national park cf. regulation no. 935/2021. Use of drone within the boundaries of the national park is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency during nesting season.

***Description of the project:***

Drone will be used at two locations at lake Mývatn on October 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 in the afternoon and at six locations within Snæfellsjökull national park on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2022. Map showing the flight route at each location was attached to the application. Each flight will last for 5-15 min.

***Review:***

In accordance to art. 25. in regulation 665/2012 the Environment Agency of Iceland requested a review from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and the Lake Mývatn Research station on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2022. The review from Icelandic Institute of Natural History was received on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2022. In their review they think it is safe to allow droneflight in the area at this time of year since nesting season is over and fewer birds in the area. The review from the Lake Mývatn Research station was received on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2022. In their review they have no comment on this drone flight.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation value if conditions of the permit are followed and flight time kept to minimum.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

After reviewed the application, management plans and regulations for Snæfellsjökull national park no permission is needed to fly a drone there if it does not disturb wildlife, vegetation, geological formation and other visitors experience.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Nick Horne permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Mývatn area as described above on October 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff of the project before work begins.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Applicant should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The applicant must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- The applicant should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors. If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- It is not allowed to fly the drone near birds at lake Mývatn.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown in close proximity to people. Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- According to Icelandic law it is forbidden to fly close to cliffs where birds nest. An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near animals or birds, neither in nesting areas nor during nesting season or any other seasonal time when animals or bird habitats are considered vulnerable.
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided during the area's busiest times of the day.
- If the use of unmanned aircraft causes disturbance to wildlife in the area, its use should be ceased at once.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes taking responsibility of any possible risk of harm to people, fauna and nature and leaving no permanent marks on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aerial vehicle must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.

If the applicant causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Environment Agency of Iceland can, according to the Nature Conservation Act, f.e. order the licensee to fix damage to nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

The Environment Agency of Iceland can according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit in order to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 the Environment Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 990/2017 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality might be needed for the project.

***Supervision:***

The Environment Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely

Jón Björnsson  
*advisor*

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir  
*advisor*