

Johan Van der Veken

Reykjavík, 3. júní 2024
UST202405-114/P.V.B.
09.04.00

Subject: Permit to fly a drone at Dynjandi and Fjallabak nature reserve

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Johan Van der Veken, dated May 13th 2024, for permit to fly a drone within Dynjandi and Fjallabak nature reserve.

Dynjandi is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 348/1971. Construction work, disturbance to geological formations and other changes to landscape is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. According to the rules of conduct operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve from June 15th - September 15th is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

Permit is requested to fly a drone at Dynjandi and Fjallabak. At Dynjandi the flight would take place on June 26th 2024 and last for 45 minutes. Purpose of the flight is to take a frontal view of the waterfall from below and flying up to a maximum height of 120 meters to film the top of the waterfall. At Fjallabak the flight would take place on July 4th 2024 for 90 minutes. Purpose of the flight would be to photography top views of the colorful landscape during the hike to Brennisteinsalda and Laugahringur. Map showing the hiking route was attached to the application.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on conservation value of the sites and nature at Fjallabak if conditions of the permit are followed. The flight might have negative effect on birdlife at Dynjandi and visitors experience at both sites but if the condition of the permit are followed and the flight does not take place in areas where no drones are allowed the impact can be reduced.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Johan Van der Veken permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Dynjandi and Fjallabak as described above on June 26th and July 4th 2024:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- 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 is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- It is forbidden to fly drones within the areas marked red in the maps attached to this letter.

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.

Permission fee:

Environment Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for droneflight for recreational flight in up to two areas is **41.600 ISK** according to art. 29.

Supervision:

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

Sincerely

Daníel Freyr Jónsson
advisor

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor