

German Aerospace Center (DLR)

Reykjavík, 31st of July 2023

UST202307-277/G.G.

09.04.00

Subject: Permit for a research – Fault Scaling at the Southwest Iceland

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from German Aerospace Center (DLR), dated 25th of July 2023, for research permit within Reykjanes country park and Thingvellir national park from 1st of August to 10th of August 2023.

Reykjanes country park is protected cf. regulation 520/1975. Disturbance to geological formations is prohibited.

Thingvellir is not under the supervision of Environment Agency. The applicant needs to apply directly to Thingvellir national park <https://www.thingvellir.is/>

Description of the project:

Determining the geometry of normal faults in SW Iceland as an analog for planetary structural geology. - Providing ground truth for remote sensing measurements of fault geometry. - Comparing extensional structures in the same lithologies on Mars and Earth. - Improving the scaling relationships between fault length and maximum displacement.

Aim of the research is measuring the length and displacement of the faults. There will not be any disturbances geological features, fauna, flora, or soil. Small amount of rock sample might be gathered by geological hammer, maximum 20 samples.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of the area or other visitors provided that the rules set hereby will be followed.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants German Aerospace Center (DLR) permission on its behalf to a research within Reykjanes country park as described above on 1st – 10th of August 2023 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.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads. <http://skipulagsaaetlanir.skipulagsstofnun.is/skipulagvefur/DisplayDoc.aspx?itemid=04637426850422530690>
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.

- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- This permit is only valid for research purposes. It does not include permit to utilize the samples for commercial purposes. The samples cannot be signed over to third party for commercial use.
- **Every measure should be taken to avoid damage to the sites and unnecessary disturbance while collecting samples.**
- **Samples should be collected where any resulting disturbance to soil, vegetation or geological formations is not visible to other visitors.**
- This permit is only for sampling for project applied for in the application for this permit. It does not include permit to utilize the samples for commercial purposes. The samples cannot be signed over to third party for commercial use.
- All participants in the project must wear high-visibility clothing during field work, labelled with the identity of the researcher or the research institute.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife 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.

If the developer 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.

Permit from the National Energy Authority is needed for researches in geothermal areas (www.os.is).

If you wish to export samples from Iceland a special permit is needed from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History (www.ni.is).

The Environment Agency of Iceland wishes to receive, free of charge, a copy of all reports and scientific articles that result from the research project.

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 operational, events, research and other activities is **57.000 ISK** according to art. 29. a. in the agency's tariff no. 206/2023.

Supervision:

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

Sincerely,

René Biasone

advisor

Guðbjörg Gunnarsdóttir

advisor