

23 February 2016

To applicants of the mining authority

## Annual Guidelines 2016, Mining Authority in Finland

Dear All

We would like to inform and remind our customers of the following practical matters:

- submitting reservation notification for the purpose of preparing an application for an exploration permit,
- applying for an exploration permit,
- obstacles to granting an exploration permit,
- new registration fee for an exploration permit.

This guideline supplements the instructions issued on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 and focuses on the 2014 annual guidelines of the mining authority.

### Submitting notifications or applications

Reservation notifications and applications for exploration permits shall be submitted to the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes, Mining Authority). If a document needs to be delivered to Tukes by a specified deadline, the document has to be at Tukes no later than the last day of the deadline before the end of the office hours (16:15). The document can be sent by regular mail, by email or by bringing the document to Tukes personally or via a courier. The document to be delivered by email has to be sent to [miningauthority@tukes.fi](mailto:miningauthority@tukes.fi) or [kaivosasiat@tukes.fi](mailto:kaivosasiat@tukes.fi).

The sending of the document is the responsibility of the sender. The matter will be considered as being officially received when the electronic document is at the authority's disposal.

If a deadline ends on a public holiday or Sunday, it will be possible to file the document in on the next office day.

Applications received from competing applicants are simultaneously considered if they have arrived

at Tukes during the same office day before 16:15.

### **Obstacles for submitting reservation notifications once the exploration period has expired**

The reservation notification shall be submitted to the mining authority according to section 44.1 of the Mining Act (621/2011) and according to sections 14 and 15 of the government decree (391/2012).

Obstacles concerning reservation notifications have been specified in section 44.2 of the Mining Act (621/2011).

The mining authority (Tukes) wants to clarify the concept “exploration area” mentioned in sections 44 and 46. The exploration area referred to in the Mining Act is an area in which the permit holder has a right to explore for ore according to the exploration permit. The concept “exploration” has been defined in section 5.1 of the Mining Act (621/2011). This affects the time when the reservation notification can be filed to Tukes. The area will no longer belong to the exploration area on the next day after the exploration permit expires. The area will not belong to the exploration area on the following day from when Tukes has decided that an exploration permit shall expire, Mining Act (621/2011) section 67.

### **Obstacles to granting an exploration permit**

Applying for an exploration permit has been specified in section 34 of the Mining Act (621/2011) and in sections 12 and 13 of the government decree (391/2012).

Obstacles to granting an exploration permit have been specified in section 46 of the Mining Act (621/2011).

### **Registration fee for an exploration application**

When the exploration application has been registered with the mining authority, 20% of the basic charge will be invoiced in advance. The invoiced amount will be compensated in the exploration permit invoice. The advance is not refunded if the applicant cancels the application.

## Calculation of the deadline when the waiting period (moratorium) ends

For instance, if the exploration permit will expire on 3<sup>rd</sup> June year x, the waiting period (moratorium) begins on 4<sup>th</sup> June year x and moratorium will end after three years (4<sup>th</sup> June year (x+3)) for a new exploration permit. However, an exploration permit may be granted for an area by consent of the holder of appropriate rights (a landowner) despite moratorium.

When the reservation notification expires e.g. on 3<sup>rd</sup> June year x, an applicant can file a new reservation notification on 4<sup>th</sup> June year (x+1).

The dates of expiry have been registered on the map service of the mining register, but they can also be checked from the mining authority (Tukes).



Terho Liikamaa  
Head of Unit, Mining Authority



Ilkka Keskitalo  
Senior Inspector, Mining Authority

