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Reykjavík 15. júní 2018  
UST201805-294/G.G.  
09.05.01

**Subject: Effect of off-axis refertilisation on Iceland basalt**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Dr. Sebastien Pilet dated 25. May 2018, for a geological research within protected areas in Iceland during the period 26. June-16. July 2018.

National Park Snæfellsjökull and Fjallabak Nature Reserve are protected by Act no. 60/2013 on nature protection, 568/2001 Snæfellsjökull National Park and 354/1979 Fjallabak Nature Reserve.

**Description of the project:**

This project is linked to the understanding of the origin of Iceland basalt. The goal of this project is to test if lithosphere refertilisation could have influenced the composition of lavas emitted in Iceland.

The plan is to perform two cross sections starting from the Reykjanes ridge, one in East direction (to Krafla area) and one in West (to Snæfellsnes). Recent basaltic samples will be collected at different location across these areas. These samples will be then analysed at Lausanne University (Chemical and mineralogical analyses). Fresh samples of basaltic lavas will be collected in 3-5 places in the two areas, in size 10x10 cm.

**Impact assessment:**

Based on the information from the applicant the Environment Agency of Iceland does not consider the research likely to have negative impact on the conservation values of the areas.

**Conclusions and conditions:**

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants a permission for the research on its behalf on following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- The Environment Agency should be informed if there will be any changes to the project description.
- The Environment Agency should be notified, with at least 5 days notice, if possible, when the project starts. Otherwise as soon as possible.

- Please contact the rangers in the areas for advise on the acceptable places for samples collection.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff before the work begins.
- Fauna, geological formations and landscape should not be disturbed more than the projects purpose demands.
- 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.
- 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 the samples.
- Number of samples should be moderate.
- The crew should be conscious of other guests on site and make sure that the project causes as little disturbance to visitors as possible.
- If any complications occur during the project please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000

According to art. 88 in act no. 60/2013 on nature conservation the ranger has the authority to stop the project if the project is likely to cause damage to the area.

If you wish to export samples from Iceland a special permit is needed from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History ([www.ni.is](http://www.ni.is)). Permit from the National Energy Authority is needed for researches in geothermal areas ([www.os.is](http://www.os.is)).

***Request:***

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

***Permission fee:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland notes that the agency charges a fee for processing applications for permits on the basis of Article 92 of Act no. 60/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for researches is 39.400 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

***Supervision:***

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



Sigrún Agústsðóttir  
Director

Sincerely,



Hákon Ásgeirsson  
Advisor