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Research permit – Geysir natural monument

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Universitaet Muenchen, dated 11th of July, for research permit within Geysir natural monument.

Geysir is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. All disturbance of geological monuments is prohibited, incl. any inscriptions and disturbance of the activity and water level of the hot spring area, disturbance of hot springs, hot springs, soils, and rocks, without permission. Helicopters and other manned aircraft may not land within the area without the permission of the Environment Agency. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The project is a continuation of a previous research project already approved by Umhverfis Stofnun (UST202207-110/p.B.S.). Like last year, the project will take place for 4-5 days, carried out by 4 researchers. Measurement will be carried out continuously depending on weather conditions. The project focuses on geophysical measurements at Strokkur geyser. The measurements will look at variations of the atmospheric electric field during the geyser activity using a very low frequency antenna detector (dimension 150x30x30 cm) 5 microphones and two video cameras. All the instruments will be deployed on movable tripods to minimise the impact on the site and to adjust the measurements to the varying activity of the geyser system. The instrumentations are thought to leave no impact on the protected area. Each instrument is positioned on movable tripods and do not require excavations at the site. Each instrument is powered by chargeable batteries, and they also have a minimal visual impact on the environment. There will be no need to go off the tourist path and the instruments will be placed in places where they will have low disturbance to visitors. No sampling will be carried out, only measurements.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the protected area.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Universitaet Muenchen permission on its behalf to conduct research within Geysir natural monument as described above from 22th of August- 29th 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.
- 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.
- All vehicles used during field exploration must be labelled with the identity of the researcher's institute. All participants in the project must wear high-visibility clothing during field work, labelled with the identity of the researcher or the research institute.

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.

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

Sincerely

Valdimar Kristjánsson
Advisor
Pórdís Björt Sigþórsdóttir
Team leader