

OLIVINMINEN
I ØDEMARKEN
THE OLIVINE MINE
IN THE WILDERNESS

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Nr. 45, November 2022

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Olivinminen i ødemarken

Uha, tidligt op en mørk og kold decemberdag. Normalt har den varme dyne et godt greb i min krop, men denne morgen er anderledes.

Det er i december 2006. Jeg skal på arbejde. Og hvilken arbejdsdag! Ude i lufthavnen venter en lille helikopter på mig. Jeg skal til møde i mineanlægget Seqi omtrent et hundrede kilometer nord for min hjemby Nuuk.

Seqi minen ligger ude i ødemarken som en enklavemine. Nærmeste beboelse er den lille bygd, Atammik, med et par hundrede indbyggere.

Minen fungerer ikke kun som en arbejdsplads. De ansatte i minen opholder sig her i flere uger ad gangen. De har egne værelser, cafeteria og opholdsrum. Men op til elleve timer i døgnet arbejder de ude i anlægget.

Det er en flyvetur over sneklædt ødemark. Vi flyver i lav højde. En flok rensdyr tager flugten, fordi helikopteren flyver i lav højde hen over deres hoveder.

Mineanlægget blev anlagt i 2005. Råstoffet, der skulle udnyttes, bestod af mineralet olivin. Det var et åbent brud, hvor mineralet fra stenbruddet blev transporteret ned til fabriksområdet. Her blev materialet sorteret og bearbejdet til et halvfabrikat, der på bulkcarrier skibe blev sejlet til videre bearbejdning et sted i udlandet.

Udbud og efterspørgsel af mineraler og mange andre forhold gør råstofsektoren til en branche med mulighed for at skabe store formuer for en ejer, men der er også tale om store risici, fordi de svingende markedsvilkår kan gøre en relativ stor investering værdiløs i løbet af ganske kort tid. Hertil kommer, at det selvfølgelig giver meget store omkostninger at etablere og køre en enklave mine langt ude i en af verdens største ødemarker.

Olivinminen fik en relativ kort levetid. I 2009 blev minen lukket ned og alt materialet blev transporteret bort igen. Kun molen ved mineanlægget ligger tilbage. Grønlands Selvstyre arbejder fortsat på at finde nye investorer for at få genåbnet en ny olivinmine på stedet.

The olivine mine in the wilderness

Uh, up early on a dark and cold December day. Usually, the warm duvet has a good grip on my body, but this morning is different.

It is a morning in December 2006. I go to work. And what a working day! Out at the airport, a small helicopter is waiting for me. I am on the way to a meeting at the Seqi Mine, about a hundred kilometres north of my hometown of Nuuk.

The Seqi Mine is located in the wilderness as an enclave mine. The nearest neighbour is the small settlement, Atammik, with about two hundred inhabitants.

The mine functions not only as a workplace. The employees of the mine stay here for weeks at a time. They have their own rooms, a cafeteria and accommodation rooms. But up to eleven hours a day, they work out in the facility.

It is a flight over snowy wasteland. We fly at low altitude. A herd of reindeer takes flight because the helicopter flies at low altitude above their heads.

The mine was built in 2005. The raw material

to be exploited consisted of the mineral olivine. It was an open quarry, where the mineral from the quarry was transported down to the factory area. Here, the material was sorted and processed into a semi-finished product, which was shipped on bulk carrier ships for further processing somewhere abroad.

The supply and demand of minerals and many other factors make the raw materials sector an industry with the possibility of creating large fortunes for an owner, but there are also great risks because the fluctuating market conditions can make a relatively large investment valueless in a very short time. In addition, it of course involves very high costs to establish and run an enclave mine far out in one of the world's largest wastelands.

The olivine mine had a relatively short lifespan. In 2009, the mine was shut down and all the material was transported away again. Only the pier at the mining plant remains. The Government of Greenland is still working to find new investors to reopen a new olivine mine at the site.



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KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Olivinminen i vildmarken
Af Keld Jensen*

*PDF Version 1
Oprindeligt publiceret november 2022*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: The olivine mine in the wilderness
By Keld Jensen*

*PDF Version 1
Originally Published November 2022*

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