



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

PROPOSAL FOR A STRATEGY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MINING WASTE IN SWEDEN PARTS ON FINANCIAL GUARANTEES

Brussels
26 January 2018

Ann-Marie Fällman,
Senior Adviser

Mining industry in Sweden

- Present mining industry
 - 14 active ore mines (iron, copper, zinc, lead, silver and gold)
 - Industrial minerals and dimension stone
 - Energy peat
 - (Aggregates: natural stones and crushed bedrock)
- Old mining history
 - Large number of abandoned and closed mines
 - Large environmental problems at some abandoned mines

Overall legal situation for mining industry



- Exploitation concession according to the Minerals Act for extraction and utilization of concession minerals
- Environmental permit according to the Environmental Code
 - Permit and specified conditions for the project

Strategy for the environmentally sustainable management of mining waste in Sweden

(September 2017)

- SEPA and the Geological Survey jointly commissioned by the Swedish government to develop the strategy.
 - Aim - Long-term, environmentally sustainable management of mining waste which is also resource-smart and economically efficient.
 - Proposals for improvement of permitting process, supervision, capacity, knowledge and innovation.
- The proposal for a strategy finalised in September 2017.
 - Can be downloaded from our web-page.

Some of the 13 proposals

- Clarify the connection between the waste management plan and financial guarantee.
- Clarify the role of the waste management plan in the legal proceedings concerning permits.
- Designate the appropriate authority as the mandatory referral authority for questions concerning financial guarantee.
- Provide guidance on Swedish extractive waste regulation with special focus on waste management plans.
- Enable the use of environmental sanction fees associated with the waste management plans.

Challenges in reviewing information on waste handling in an application for permit

- Sufficient measures for handling of waste and for closure and post closure of waste facility for reaching satisfactory environmental conditions in areas impacted by the waste facility?
- Critical parts:
 - Characterization of the waste
 - Handling of the waste during operation
 - Measures for closure and post closure
- Sufficient financial security for covering costs for closure and post closure of the waste facility?

Shortcomings in the waste management plans from the analyze

- Waste management plans are not used to their full extent by operators and regulators.
- Common shortcomings in the plans include limited information in relation to regulatory requirements for
 - Characterisation
 - Prevention of waste
 - Measures for recycling, closure and rehabilitation
- The size of the financial security is generally calculated, but is not covering all required costs.