



Potential for improvements

SveMin



Mining industry – water regulation

- Since the implementation of the water framework directive in Sweden, water issues have become one of the most critical aspects for the mining industry regarding, for example, development.
- Regulations including theoretically set limit values (including risk assessments) do not take into consideration the specific conditions of the water bodies or the varying possibilities to mitigate or handle emissions to reach the limit values.

Project:

Swedish water regulation, potential for improvements

Purpose

To create a platform that can work as a base for a proactive work with issues regarding the Swedish water regulation, where industry, authorities and decision makers can discuss and cooperate in a pragmatic way.

Target

- *Illustrate, through examples and experiences, problems with the Swedish water regulation identified by the mining sector, with focus on potential for improvements.*
- *To be solution-oriented.*
- *Develop a plan to initiate necessary activities.*

Methodology

Analysis of the current situation through a number of workshops, trying to point out the most important areas regarding the Swedish water regulation.

Compilation of information in a report focusing on practical examples.

Authorities

Which authorities are involved in the process?

Description of the problem

Examples

Examples of cases from different mines

Legal support and guidance

What can be found in laws, regulations and guidance documents?

Examples from other EU countries (exclusively regarding some areas)

Comparison on how other EU countries have handled the implementation of the water frame directive

Suggestion on improvements

Ongoing work

Point out if there are any ongoing projects, initiatives, or investigations that handle the particular area. Ways to move forward.

Vattenförvaltningen: Konkreta problem och nödvändiga förändringar



Rautasälven norr om Kiruna, vattenförekomst ID SE754866-168671. Foto: Anders Lundkvist.

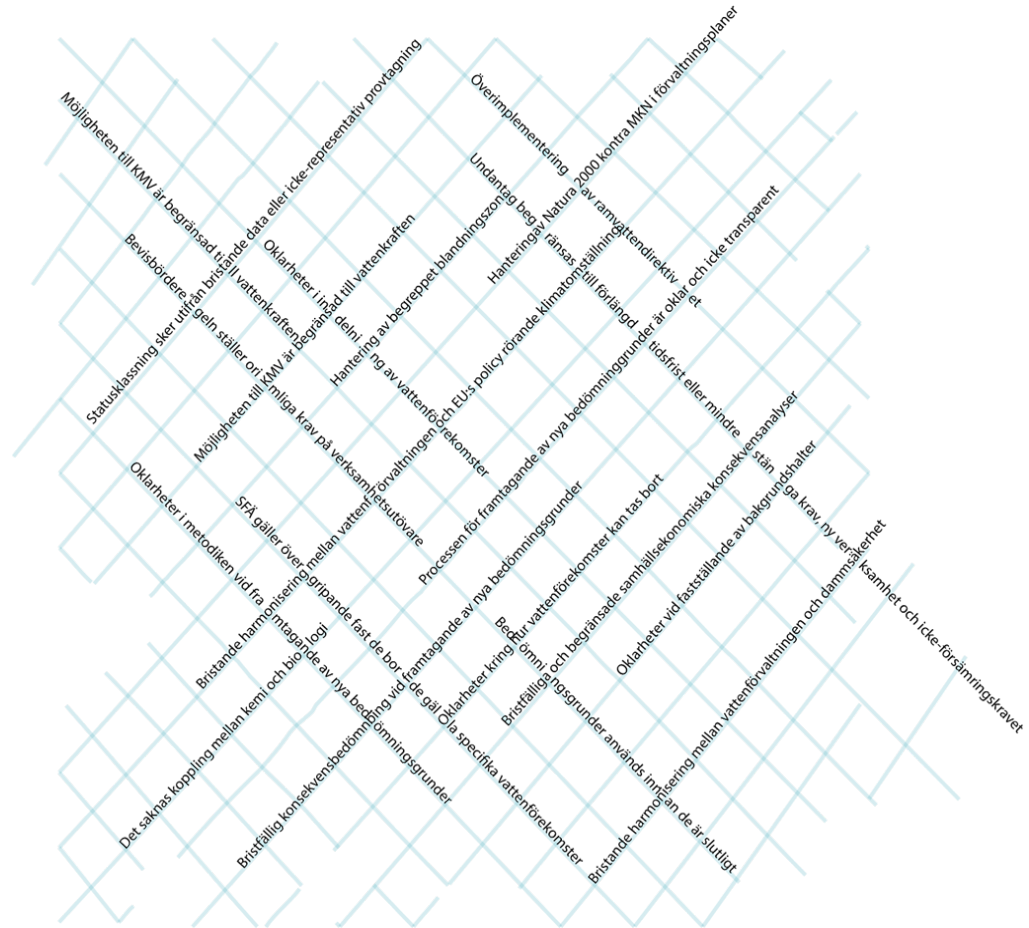
The report is at the moment considered an internal document where more examples are to be added.

Conclusion

There are difficulties communicating the problems coupled to water regulation... if you want a simple answer:

- The water regulation consists of many individual parts that together create problems.
- Within the existing system we believe there are possibilities to both simplify and complicate. To a large extent this depends on how individual administrators handle different parts of the system.
- There is a lack of holistic approach.

The impenetrable network

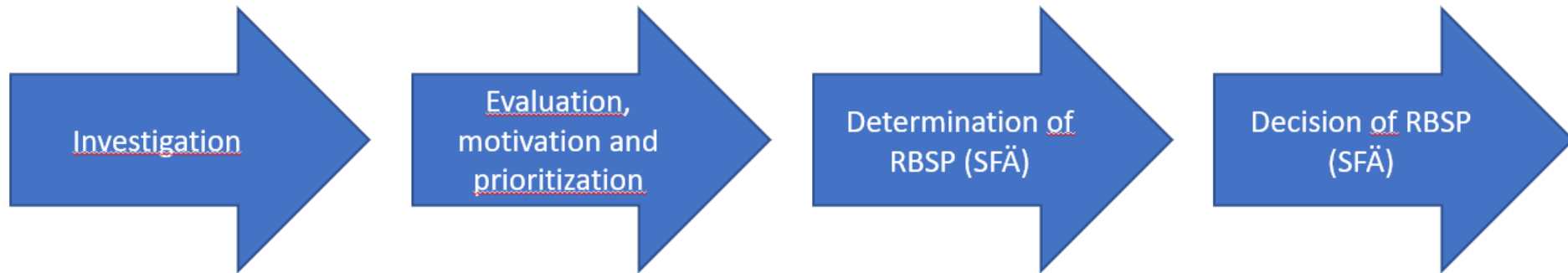


A gravel path leads from the foreground into the distance, flanked by green grass and wildflowers. In the background, a line of trees and a small town are visible under a dramatic sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds.

The road ahead

Three examples from the report

1. A more transparent way of establishing new RBSP:s



- Investigation about up-and - coming RBSP:s organized in a clear process with a time plan.
- The mining industry can contribute to the investigation

The motivation is important.

- Why is there a need for a specific substance to be a RBSP?
- What is the expected environmental effect of the regulation?

When the need for a new RBSP is clear, an impact assessment needs to be initiated.

- What are the consequences of the suggestion?
- Time plan for the work - to make sure that concerned parties have a chance to give their comments.
- Impact assessment from a broad, socio-economic perspective.

- The decision is motivated from both the environmental effect and the impact assessment.
- A dossier about the process, motivations and scientific background is established.
- The purpose of the dossier is to make it possible to re-evaluate the decision, if new information becomes available in the future.

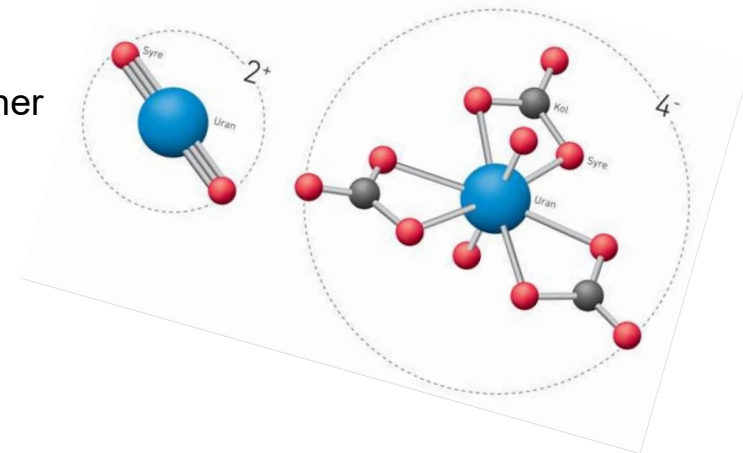
2. Improve impact assessments

- ◆ Early consultation
- ◆ Collect a wide base of knowledge
- ◆ Extended competence, assess not only the environmental effects, but also the social and economical effects of a proposed change in legislation.



3. Change the RBSP definition to allow a site-specific approach

- Mining recipients are different from typical surface waters. Mining recipients tend to have higher ion strength and generally harder water.
- Toxic effects from different substances depend on the bioavailability of the substance. The bioavailability on the other hand is not static but is controlled by the geochemical characteristics of the water.
- A site-specific approach would allow more accurate environmental assessments in waters that deviate from a "standard water", like a mine recipient.
- Svemin would very much like to cooperate with HaV in research projects to better apply the use of site-specific RBSP:s in the future.



Thank you!

