



18 March 2025

SGU wants the uranium ban to be lifted

The current ban on uranium mining in Sweden distorts competition, both within the EU and globally, and also makes it more difficult to extract other critical metals and minerals that are necessary for the energy transition. This is stated by the Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) in its statement on the government's proposal to re-enable uranium extraction.

Sweden has a long tradition of mining and metal production, a rich bedrock that is also favourable for mining, and strong environmental legislation. With these good conditions, Sweden plays a crucial role in Europe's supply of the critical and strategic metals and minerals needed for the green transition and our defence.

Uranium is found naturally in Swedish bedrock and often occurs together with other metals and minerals, including several that are considered critical. However, since 2018, there has been a ban on extracting uranium, and it is also not possible to obtain an exploration permit to prospect for uranium. The government wants to change this and has asked several different societal actors to comment on its proposal, including SGU. The opinion, which is positive about future extraction of uranium, has now been submitted to the government.

"We believe that the current ban on the extraction of uranium stands in the way of an effective investigation of Sweden's bedrock and thus an efficient use of our mineral resources, which are absolutely fundamental for our entire society and not least for the green transition," says Anette Madsen, Director General of SGU.

SGU emphasizes that Swedish legislation risks distorting competition both within the EU and globally. Today, exploration and extraction of uranium is permitted in several parts of the world. The metal and mineral market is global and access to capital for exploration activities is limited. The situation is further exacerbated by the fact that current legislation also makes it more difficult for operations where uranium is not relevant as either a main or by-product.

"In order for exploration to be economically justified, in addition to good potential in the mineral deposit, clear and predictable regulations and an attractive investment environment are required. Regulations should not create different conditions for investment in exploration so that Sweden falls behind in security of supply," says Peter Åkerhammar, investigator at SGU.

SGU notes that uranium should not be subject to special legislation in relation to other metals included in the Swedish Minerals Act. The criteria set for all other concession minerals should also be able to meet uranium in certain locations. The specific risks associated with uranium mining need to be taken into account in the environmental assessment process in accordance with current regulations.

Here you can read SGU's statement:

[Referral memorandum To re-enable the extraction of uranium](#)

Last reviewed 2025-03-18

More on our website



> Uranium

Uranium is used as fuel in nuclear power plants and has therefore become one of our most discussed raw materials. Where is uranium found in Sweden? What applies to exploration and mining? Here you will find answers to these and other questions about uranium.

Questions and answers



> [Where is uranium in Sweden?](#)

> [What proportion of the world's uranium resources are estimated to be in Sweden?](#)

> [How much of the uranium is minable? As own extraction and as a by-product?](#)

> [What happens if the uranium mining ban is lifted?](#)

> [Why should we/should we not mine uranium in Sweden?](#)

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In this report, SGU presents what three different scenarios for nuclear power will have for effects on the need for metals and materials as well as the land claim in Swedish electricity supply until 2050.

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