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Remaining buildings in the Ranstad uranium mine area in Falköping (Image: Nasko, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

ENVIRONMENT

Uranium mining planned in Sweden

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ENVIRONMENT According to the Tidö parties, Sweden's nuclear power will be developed and we will have at least two large reactors before 2035. [Peter Åkerhammar](#), uranium expert at the Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU), has been involved in writing a report which shows that Sweden has uranium reserves of about 20,000 tonnes in the ground – so there would be enough for nuclear power if it were to be mined. This is something that the [Australian company Aura Energy](#), among others, has taken note of. In Oviken in Jämtland, they intend to start a mine through the Swedish subsidiary Vanadis Battery Minerals. The main aim is to extract the minerals vanadium, zinc and nickel, but when the alum shale where these minerals are found is mined, the uranium will come up.

Uranium mining has been banned in Sweden since 2018, but the government and the Sweden Democrats intend to allow it again. When the ban disappears, Aura Energyta wants to take advantage of it and sell it to the Swedish nuclear power plants. However, there is great resistance in the municipality of Berg, where a large part of the deposits are located, both among residents and politicians. In September, the municipal council in Berg voted against mining in alum shale.

"There is great concern that a mine will have a significant negative impact on the environment. We have, among other things, Storsjön in the area, which supplies 70,000 inhabitants with drinking water. There is always a risk that emissions from a sedimentation pond will reach

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The [Talvivaara](#) uranium mine in Finland is seen as a deterrent. In 2012, a leaching pond containing hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of water burst there, contaminated with nickel, cadmium, aluminum and uranium. The outflow could only be stopped after ten days and poisoned several lakes as well as nearby forests. Even after that, minor leaks occurred. The incident is one of the biggest environmental scandals in Finland, and in May 2016, Talvivaara's former management was convicted of environmental crimes. Following appeals, hearings were initiated in the Court of Appeal in October 2023. New mining is also on the agenda in Talvivaara.

The [Swedish town of Falköping](#) is also concerned about the development. This was once the site of the Ranstad mine, Sweden's only uranium mine – and today there are forests and streams with signs informing that it is an environmental risk area after landfills with heavy metals in connection with uranium mining. Here, the protests came right away when the government started talking about uranium mining and new nuclear power plants.

In 2024, Aura Energy will submit an application for an exploitation concession, and if the permit process progresses, it is estimated that a mine could be in operation in nine to ten years. David Woodall from the Australian company promises gold and green forests: around 1600 new jobs will be created in the municipality and no environmental damage. So far, the municipality can veto – but Anders Olof Öhlén believes that the municipalities' right of veto will soon disappear.

In its [environmental program](#), the Communist Party of Sweden discusses nuclear power, and sees it as a problematic area, where it highlights, among other things, the disposal of radioactive waste, which is another of the most serious problems that come with energy production. As can be seen, uranium mining has a separate environmental problem – whether the mineral is extracted in Sweden or not.

Labels: [Aura Energy](#), [Nuclear power](#), [Communists](#), [Municipal veto](#), [SKP](#), [SVPO](#), [heavy metals](#), [Uranium mining](#), [vpo](#)

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