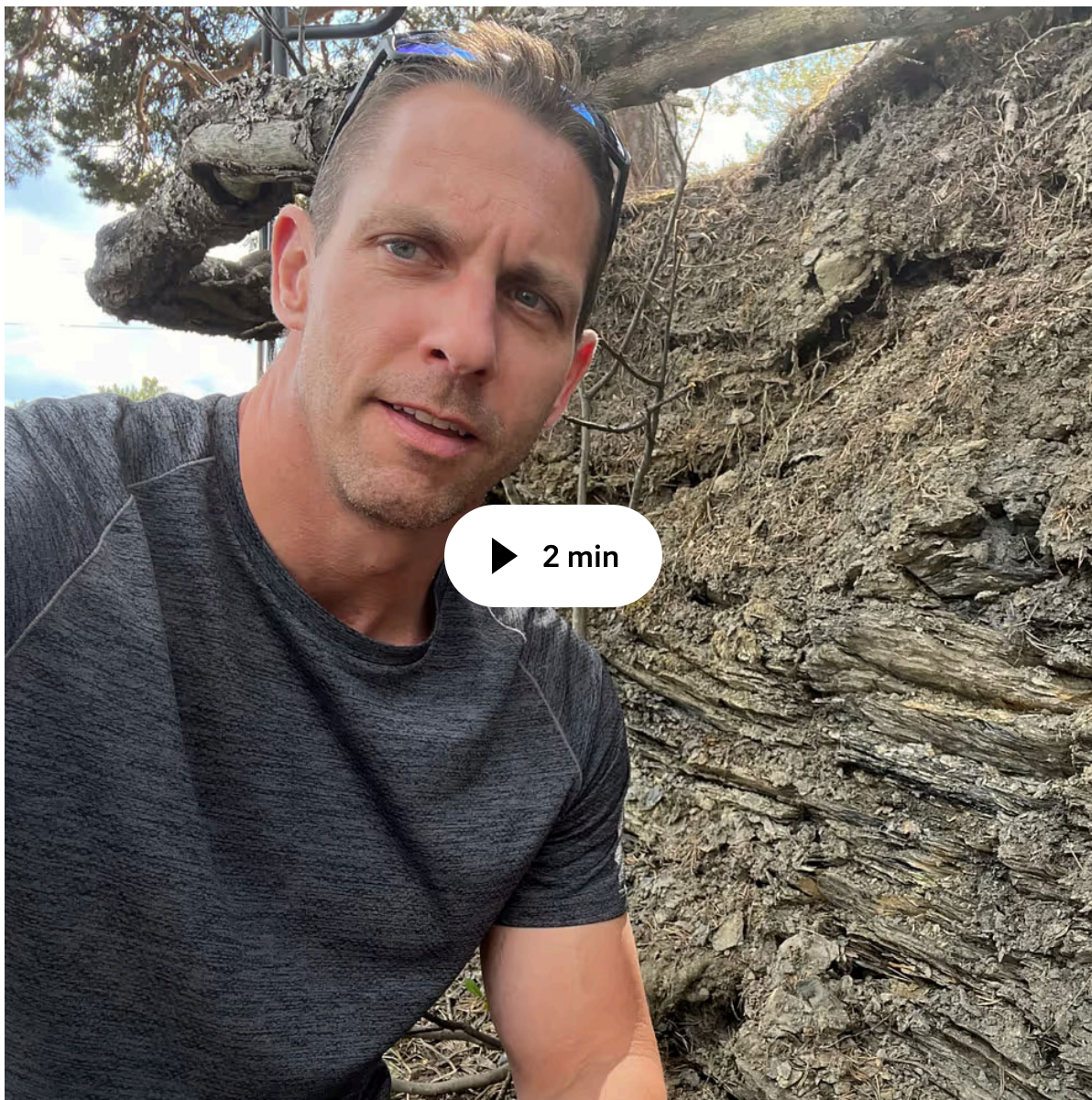


/ JÄMTLAND



Despite the low uranium content, mining in Oviken is profitable. Garrett Ainsworth, CEO of District Metals, explains why in the clip. Photo: District Metals, Marie Selander/SVT

Canadian mining company: Oviken is home to the world's second largest uranium deposit

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The world's second largest uranium deposit is located in Oviken, according to the Canadian company District Metals, which is the largest prospector in Jämtland County.


Despite the low uranium content, the deposit is considered mineable, says the company's CEO Garrett Ainsworth in his first interview at the site.

"In Finland, uranium mining is to be started, and the uranium content there is ten times lower than in Oviken," he explains.


The deposit is called Viken and it is sold in advertising to investment companies as one of the world's largest deposits of uranium and vanadium.

It is estimated to contain over one billion tonnes of uranium ore and 17 billion tonnes of vanadium ore.

Mining plans in Jämtland >



Company applies to start mine in Oviken



Mining company has bribed large area in Tåsjöbygden – villagers: "It's twofold"

Claimed over 80,000 hectares

In Jämtland County, District Metals is the company that has claimed the largest areas for exploration, close to 80,000 hectares. A large part consists of the deposit in Oviken, but also includes large areas in the Tåsjö area.

The mineral rights are held through the subsidiary Bergslagen Metals. Recently, the CEO and a number of the company's investors were on site in Oviken.

Like the rest of the mining industry, the company is awaiting the government's announcement of the uranium mining ban, with the hope that it will be lifted.

"Then we will pick up the pace of our work," says District Metals CEO Garrett Ainsworth, a geologist specializing in uranium.

Low-grade uranium – still mineable

The company has purposefully expanded its mineral rights in recent years.

District Metals is an exploration company and does not plan its own mining, but intends to sell the mineral rights on.

Is the Viken deposit really one of the world's largest deposits, there are large deposits, such as the deposits in Africa?

"That's right. But it is a large deposit. And the Viken deposit also contains large amounts of vanadium and other energy metals. There is a difference," says Garrett Ainsworth.

At the same time, he adds that the uranium content is very low in Oviken, as is the rest of Sweden.

But if the uranium content is low, is it still mineable?

–Yes.

How do you view the fact that there is a great deal of concern about the environmental risks, such as the concern that the drinking water, which is taken from Lake Storsjön, will be poisoned?

"Sweden has strong environmental legislation. If uranium mining is going to take place anywhere, it is here or in countries like Canada," says Garrett Ainsworth.

The company that has come furthest in its mining plans in the county is the Australian company Aura Energy, which has applied for a mining concession in Oviken.

URANIUM DEPOSITS ARE LOCATED HERE

Of the world's total uranium resources, 0.2 percent is considered to be in Sweden. Sweden's resources make up about 27 percent of Europe's uranium resources, based on what is known today (OECD NEA).

The Swedish uranium deposits are found in alum shale and in the bedrock.

The dark alum shale is the youngest deposits, and also those that contain the largest total uranium deposits in Sweden. They occur in greater numbers in the mountain range's peripheral areas, for example at Storsjön in Jämtland County, as well as in Skåne, Billingen in Västergötland, Östergötland, Närke and on Öland.

The uranium content in alum shale differs in different parts of Sweden.

In the southern Storsjö area (Oviken bla), for example, the uranium content amounts to 245 grams per tonne. The highest uranium content is found in Billingen at 300 grams per tonne and the lowest in Skåne at 50 grams per tonne.

In Sweden, about 1,500 tonnes of natural uranium are used annually, which are purchased on the world market. The main countries for commercial uranium mining are Kazakhstan, Canada and Australia.

Today, there is a ban on the extraction of uranium in Sweden, but the government has appointed an inquiry to look into how the ban can be lifted. The results of the investigation are expected to be presented shortly.

(source: SGU, government)

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✉ **Marie Selander**

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