EXPLORATION AND MINING IN GREENLAND

UJARASSIORIT - The National Mineral Hunt

Ujarassiorit is a mineral hunt competition open to residents of Greenland. Participants can submit rock samples from Greenland to the Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum (BMP) for evaluation and may be selected for a prize.

The Mineral Hunt history - involving local enthusiasm

Ever since the first Mineral Hunt in 1989, there has been a strong interest in the programme from the general public. Rock samples are submitted from all over Greenland. A total of 20,134 rock samples have been submitted over the years from 1989 to 2009.

The Mineral Hunt is grass-root exploration aiming at involving and using the local knowledge of the population to find new mineral deposits. In several instances, the samples submitted have provided the impetus for exploration companies to undertake mineral exploration in Greenland. In addition, the Mineral Hunt has fostered a broader understanding and general interest in geology and mineral exploration among the residents of Greenland.

Rules for participation

Only non-geologist residents of Greenland can participate in the Mineral Hunt. The rock samples have to be found in Greenland and only samples with information on exact location can be awarded a prize. The samples



The BMP geologist studying a sample from an award locality. Photo: BMP





Statistics of 20 years of the mineral hunt. Photo: BMP

submitted have to be received before October 1st to qualify for the competition. The samples are not returned to the participants.

Samples must not be taken from areas covered by exploitation licences and municipality by-laws must be followed. Participants in the Mineral Hunt do not acquire rights according to the Mineral Resources Act.

Boxes for the submission of rock samples are available free of charge at any post office and the postage is paid by the BMP. Participants are asked to fill out a form with contact information, information on the location the sample was taken from, and whether the sample was outcropping in the bedrock or a float sample.

Rock description and analysis

A geological description of the sample is made by the geologists at the BMP and a letter is mailed to the participant with feedback on the rock description; type, mineral composition and, if relevant, potential economic mineralisation and whether the sample will be taken in





Awards presented to the winners at the BMP office in Nuuk. Photo: BMP

for further analysis. Approximately 20 percent of the samples are analysed in detail.

After receipt of analysis results, the participant is informed of the content of elements in the sample that could indicate a potential for economic mineralisation.

Prize awards

An Awards Committee consisting of geologists from the BMP and the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) decides which rock samples are to be a-warded a prize. Samples should add new knowledge about Greenland geology in order to qualify for the competition. Samples from known deposits only qualify for a prize if they contribute new knowledge.

The 1st prize is DKK 55,000 (EUR 7,500) and the 2nd prize is DKK 25,000 (EUR 3,500). The number of 3rd and 4th prize winners varies from year to year depending on the number of interesting rock sam-

ples submitted. A total of DKK 120,000 (EUR 16,500) is available for tax-free prizes.

Field check near award localities

Photo: BMP

Field follow-up

Follow-up in the field has been carried out for selected samples in order to gain more information about the mineral samples and their locations. Each field follow-up, including laboratory results, is described in a report.

On-line data – www.ujarassiorit.gl

The annual Mineral Hunt reports and field follow-up reports are available on the website www. ujarassiorit.gl or on request from the BMP. The website has general information on the Mineral Hunt, results, and guidelines for mineral identification and sample collection. The Mineral Hunt results for a year are published on the website in January/February the following year.



Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum (BMP) Government of Greenland P.O. Box 930 DK-3900 Nuuk Greenland

> Tel: (+299) 34 68 00 Fax.: (+299) 32 43 02 E-mail: bmp@gh.gl Internet: www.bmp.gl



G E U SGeological Survey of Denmark

Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) Øster Voldgade 10 DK-1350 Copenhagen K Denmark

Tel: (+45) 38 14 20 00 Fax.: (+45) 38 14 20 50 E-mail: geus@geus.dk Internet: www.geus.dk

Authors

A. Clausen & H. Stendal, 2009

Editor

K. Secher, GEUS

Layout Henrik Klinge Pedersen, GEUS

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