

Founding articles for the Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Committee (NySMAC)

Noticing that the research activities in Ny-Ålesund have expanded considerably in recent years, that several nations have established their own research stations in the area, and that other nations are planning to do so, and

Noticing that the Norwegian Government has decided that Ny-Ålesund shall be the centre for science in Svalbard and that this should be the main activity and basis for maintaining a society in the former mining town, and on this background

Recognizing the vulnerability of the Arctic natural environment and the potential impacts of human activities, and

Recognizing the need for better co-ordination and collaboration among scientific institutions working in Ny-Ålesund, The Norwegian Polar Institute, The Norwegian Mapping Authority, The Norwegian Institute for Air Research, Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (Germany), The Natural Environment Research Council (Great Britain), and The National Institute of Polar Research (Japan), have decided to establish

The Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Committee

with the following purpose and mandate:

1. NySMAC Purpose

- 1.1 Contribute to the development of Ny-Ålesund as an internationally recognized site for Arctic research.
- 1.2 Avoid negative impacts on research programmes from other activities (including other scientific activities) in Ny-Ålesund.
- 1.3 Minimize and mitigate environmental impacts of scientific activity conducted from Ny-Ålesund.
- 1.4 Encourage co-operation between scientists and institutions present in Ny-Ålesund.
- 1.5 Avoid unnecessary overlap of research programmes and negative competition between scientific institutions.

2. NySMAC Mandate

- 2.1 Co-ordinate research activities in Ny-Ålesund by giving advice to Kings Bay AS, to Norwegian authorities, and to scientific institutions which run projects in Ny-Ålesund.
- 2.2 Improve co-operation among institutions or among scientists by annually issuing an updated directory data base on past, ongoing and planned scientific projects in Ny-Ålesund.
- 2.3 Assess new scientific projects and other activities which may have significant impacts on existing projects or the environment.

- 2.4 Establish a safety policy which should be adopted by individuals and groups working from Ny-Ålesund.
- 2.5 Take measures, including the convening of regular seminars, to promote Ny-Ålesund in the international scientific community.

3. Participating institutions

- 3.1 All scientific institutions which run long-term programmes from Ny-Ålesund and have permanent infrastructure, are eligible for membership of the committee. New members are accepted following a consensus decision by NySMAC.
- 3.2 Each institution appoints one representative (vote) to NySMAC, but can be represented by more persons at the meetings if necessary.
- 3.3 Kings Bay AS shall meet with status as observer.

4. Organization

- 4.1 The chairman and vice-chairman of NySMAC are elected among the representatives for a two-year period, with election terms staggered by one year.
- 4.2 The Norwegian Polar Institute runs a permanent secretariat.
- 4.3 Decisions are taken either through a hearing process or at committee meetings. NySMAC takes decisions through consensus.
- 4.4 Member institutions that have not submitted written responses to hearing documents or are not attending committee meetings are assumed to be neutral to the issues and are therefore expected to support the consensus opinion of the active institutions.

Clauses 4.3 and 4.4 were added to the Founding Article (from 3rd May 1995) at the 12th NySMAC meeting in February 2000.

The Norwegian Polar Institute

Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research

The Norwegian Mapping Authority

The Natural Environment Research Council

The Norwegian Institute for Air Research

The National Institute of Polar Research