

**Arctic Mining: Environmental issues,
mitigation and pollution control for
marine and coastal mining-
Workshop March 21, 22, 23, 2023**



Speaker: Steen Christensen, Environmental Agency for Mineral Resource Activities

Biography: *Since December 2019, Dr. Christensen has been based in Nuuk working with the Government of Greenland. From December 2019 - October 2021 as the Chief Advisor with the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture. And since November 2021 as Head of the Environment Agency for Mineral Resource Activities (EAMRA).*

Abstract

The presentation presents a brief overview of the evolution of the mining industry in Greenland from the first cryolite mine opening in Ivittuut in 1854 to the opening of the zinc-led mine Maarmorilik in the 1970s where the first environmental studies on effects of mine site activities were conducted.

Recognizing that the old mine sites might be potential sources for pollution, environmental studies were initiated in the early 1970s. The research and continued monitoring at these polluted sites have enabled studies on the effects of mining pollution under Arctic conditions and provided a solid knowledge platform for sustainable development of the mining industry in Greenland under the guidance of the Environmental Agency for Mineral Resource Activities.

The presentation highlights some of the extreme climatic and logistic conditions that the mining industry faces in Greenland and emphasizes the conditional Environmental Impact Assessment that is designed to evaluate and mitigate the potential risks to the sensitive arctic environment.

To continue the sustainable development of the mining industry in Greenland the presentation highlights the need for stronger community engagement, application of best available practice (BAP), best available technologies (BET), and promoting reduction of emissions and use of renewable energy.