

# Transboundary EIA in the Arctic

How has it been addressed and  
whether we can transfer any lessons  
for complex TEIA's

# Story-line

- Has the Espoo Convention become a major influence in the Arctic, and has it been adjusted to Arctic conditions? (very quickly 😊)
- What are the challenges and solutions found during the process of making the Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment in the Arctic 1997 (chapter 11 on transboundary EIA)
- Two case studies (1) on how the Espoo Convention has been applied or is about to be applied in the Arctic
- Are there lessons to be learned from the Arctic for complex TEIA's?

# The Espoo Convention and the Arctic co-operation

- Both started at the same year, 1991
- The Espoo Convention was signed by all states that took part in Arctic inter-governmental co-operation (5 Nordics, Russia, USA and Canada)
- Provided thus a good possibility for a pan-Arctic legal framework for transboundary EIA
- And there were signs that this will happen very soon

# Continued

- But this was not the way it turned out (Iceland, Russia and the US are signatories)
- Still, the Espoo Convention played a strong role in the beginning of the Arctic co-operation, during the stage of the AEPS (1991-1997) – not anymore during the Arctic Council (1996 - )
- The AEPS and subsequent ministerial meetings endorsed the Espoo Convention

# Continued

- And, in 1994, Finland commenced a project to produce Guidelines for EIA in the Arctic
- International negotiations
- The Guidelines were adopted in 1997 in the final ministerial meeting of the AEPS Co-operation in Alta – with strong wording
- What is the current state
- Some promise for the future still
- In any case EIA Guidelines are relevant – also for TEIA's (and not only because of Ch. 11)
- Addresses SEA only in passing

# Challenges addressed in the Guidelines

- Knowledge production of likely impacts:
- Lack of baseline data
- One proposed activity becomes a mini-town (cumulative impact assessment, SEA) + public and private funding
- How do you assess socio-economic impacts (vulnerable communities overall in the Arctic, IP's)
- How you address the impacts to traditional livelihoods, which are practised over wide areas (reindeer herding)
- Different and vulnerable environment
- TEK vs. western scientific knowledge
- How do you convey the results to various cultures?

# Continued - PP

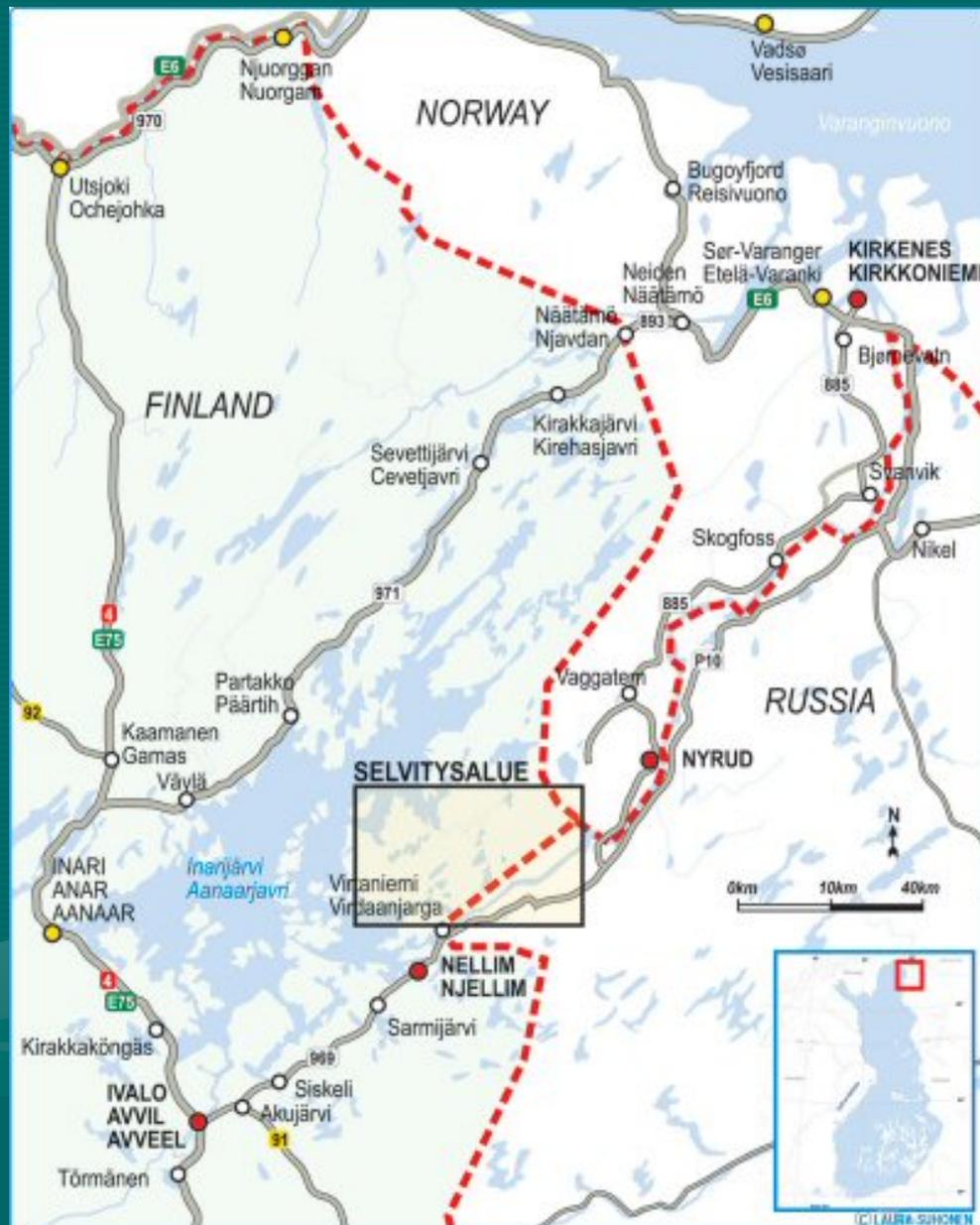
- How to organise PP in areas where distances are great, and only few towns (time)
- How to organise PP in areas with IP's asserting their land or land use rights – special status (group status, better than that of the public at large)
- How you in general communicate with people whose culture is so different that communication is very difficult (time and sensitivity)

# Ideals fleshed out in resolving these in the Guidelines

- As early start as possible – not only with scoping but involve especially IP's from the very early on (TEK)
- Take the special features and vulnerability of the Arctic environment and human cultures into account from the beginning
- With time and patience build trust on a longer term, and have the EIA continue with monitoring programme

# Special challenges in TEIA – chapter 11

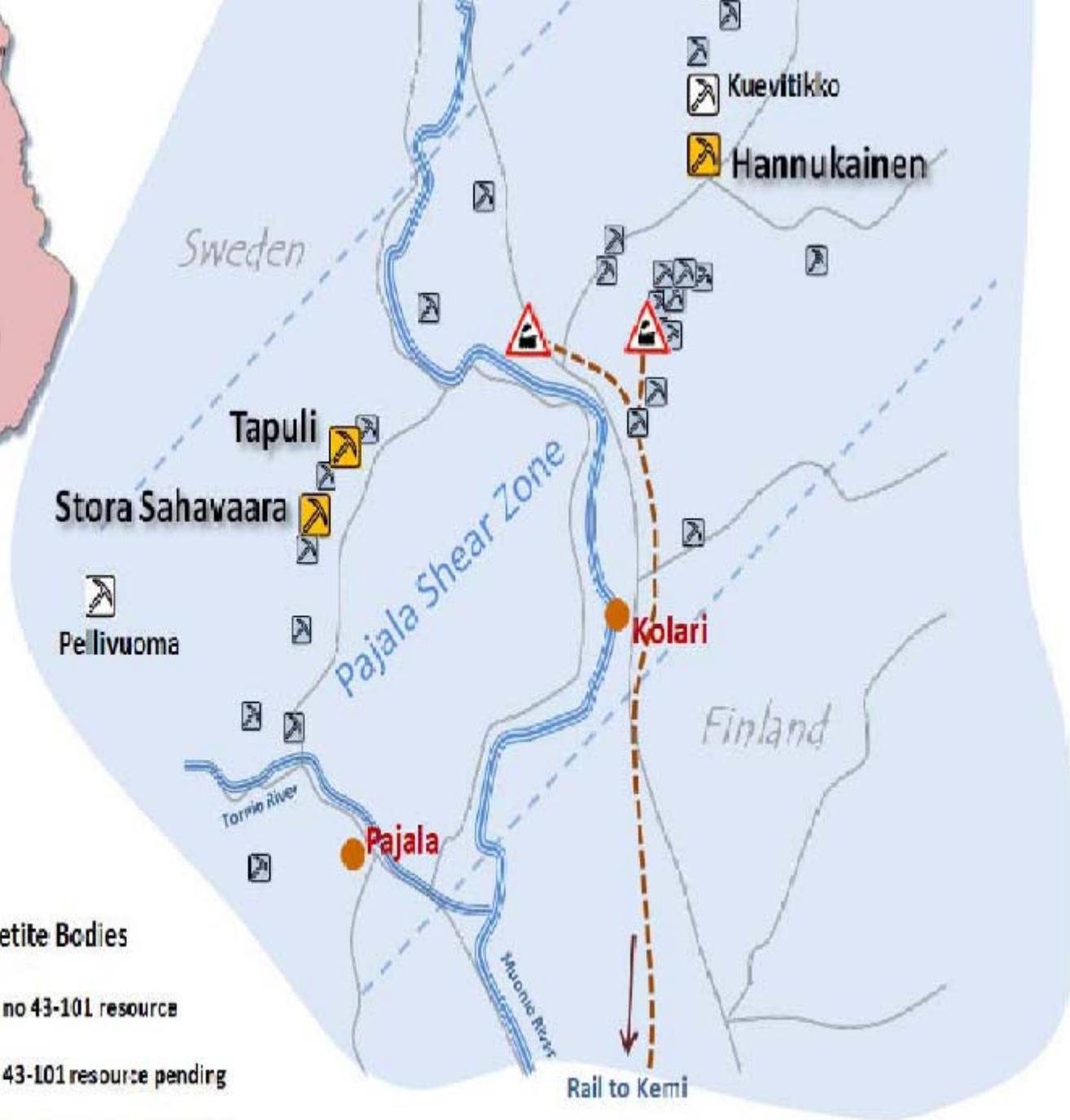
- Difference in knowledge production methods - harmonisation of methodologies (also TEK)
- Perhaps leading to joint committees (or even agreements between states)
- Importance of AIP's organisations – complexities in this!





### Magnetite Bodies

-  no 43-101 resource
-  43-101 resource pending
-  43-101 resource complete



# Any implications to addressing complexity in TEIA in general?

- Ideal from the EIA Guidelines: Process is more about building trust than studying environmental impacts, the building of trust also producing better EIA and ultimately better environmental state
- This would seem to hold particular force to TEIA's as sovereign states need to co-operate
- Come up with ways of very early start and prepare for a long process
- With the idea that knowledge of likely transboundary impacts is built together, and it is followed-up together