

## Arctic Natural Resources

Dr Nikolas Sellheim. The Polar Connection. *"Silencing the Screaming—The Discovery of Rare Earth Minerals in Sweden"*. June 12, 2023. //HL

<https://polarconnection.org/rare-earth-metals-sweden/#:~:text=On%2012%20January%202023%2C%20Swedish,far%20above%20the%20Arctic%20Circle.>

On 12 January 2023, Swedish state-owned mining company LKAB announced that it had discovered **one million tonnes of mineable rare earth metal oxides in the Kiruna area, far above the Arctic Circle**. The so-called Per Geijer Deposit is therefore the largest deposit of rare earths in Europe, which, according to LKAB's CEO Jan Moström, "are absolutely crucial to enable the green transition" since "[w]ithout mines, there can be no electric vehicles" (LKAB, 2023).

Rare earth metals are a group of 17 elements from the periodic table which, due to their unique characteristics, are primarily used for the production of high quality magnets, alloys, ceramics and other parts crucial for electronics, such as smartphones. Moström's statement, however, refers to their uses in the production of magnets for electronic vehicles and wind turbines, both of which are considered elementary for the green transition. In Germany, especially the latter has become a major issue for the generation of energy after the country has taken its last three remaining nuclear power plants off the grid on 15 April 2023 (Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste Management, 2023).