



ÞÝÐINGAFJÓNUSTAN S/F. — TRANSLATION SERVICES

SNEKKJUVOGI 19, 104 REYKJAVÍK, TEL. 33389

AXEL KAABER

LÚÐVÍK KAABER

TEL. 33389

1

TEL. 616888

Authorized Translators and Court Interpreters

Translation from Icelandic.

L A W

NR. 21/1993

in respect of supply of information and
access to information regarding
environmental matters.

The President of Iceland declares:

The Althing has agreed to this Law and I confirmed
it with my signature:

Paragraph 1.

This Law is intended to ensure access of the public to
information in respect of environmental matters from the
Government and that the Government distributes information
regarding environmental matters to the public.

Paragraph 2.

This Law applies to the access of the public to
information regarding environmental matters from the
Government, municipalities and their institutions.

By information regarding environmental matters is
especially meant information that concerns the environment
and natural resources. In addition it refers to information
regarding activities that have or are likely to have
undesirable effects on the mentioned matters.

Paragraph 3.

An individual or a legal party that wishes to obtain
information regarding environmental matters, shall forward a

written application to the respective authorities, where it is clearly stated what information is requested and whatever else that matters.

The Authority concerned shall deal with the application within four weeks from the date of reception.

Paragraph 4.

Before information is given according to this Law that concerns important commercial interests of individuals or companies, or concerns the private interests of individuals, the respective concern or individual shall be requested to present their point of view.

Paragraph 5.

The basic object of this Law, cf., paragraph 1, is to ensure the rights of the general public to information regarding environmental matters, but it is nevertheless permitted to refuse to give information regarding environmental matters in full or in part, if there is a motivated reason to expect that the information might have serious effects on:

- a. The safety of the State,
- b. International relations,
- c. Cases that are under investigation or on their initial stage.
- d. Important commercial interests of the Government, individuals and concerns, including copyright..
- e. Private circumstances of individuals.
- f. Environmental protection.

It is permissible to refuse a request for information that has been acquired before this Law took effect.

The Government is obliged to give reasons for the refusal to supply information according to 1st and 2nd sentences.

Paragraph 6.

It is permissible to file a complaint against the refusal to give information, to the respective Minister, within six weeks from the respective party was advised of the decision.

Before the Minister issues a decision according to the first sentence, the parties involved shall be given the opportunity to present their opinions.

Paragraph 7.

If a party asks for information that is not at hand, but considered correct to obtain and pass on, then the Government Institution concerned is permitted to charge a reasonable and moderate fee for such a service.

The Government shall notify those who ask for information of the fee which the respective party has to pay.

Paragraph 8.

Government establishments that work in the field of environmental matters, shall keep up an information activity for the public regarding environmental matters and protection, and ensure that the information is easily accessible to the public.

Paragraph 9.

The Minister of Environment shall annually present an official report in respect of the position and development of environmental protection in Iceland.

In addition, the Government departments that are concerned with the field of environmental matters, shall explain the Laws issued, rulings and decisions in the field of environmental matters, in so far as they affect the interests of the public.

Paragraph 10.

The Minister of Environment is permitted to issue a regulation regarding the further performance of this Law.

Paragraph 11.

This Law takes effect at once.

Issued in Reykjavík, 30th March 1993.

Vigdís Finnbogadóttir
(L.S.)

Eiður Guðnason.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE ABOVE IS A TRUE AND
FAIR FULL TRANSLATION OF
THE LATTER ORIGINAL
A MEMBER
AUTHORISED TRANSLATOR

