



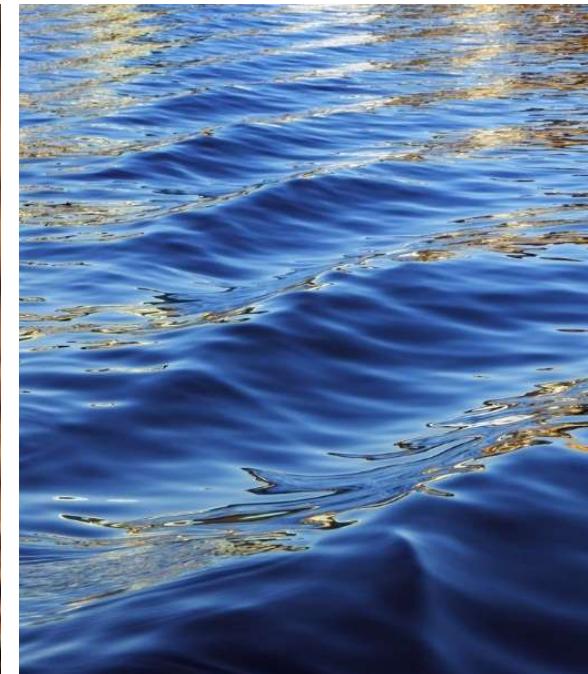
Supplying safe drinking water during geological episodes

Nordic-Baltic Drinking Water Conference
Hotel Reykjavík Grand - October 22–24 2025

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Suðurnes Public Health Authority
22. October 2025



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Suðurnesja





Out and about during sampling of drinking water

On my way to work on February 8th 2024



Lunchbreak May 29th 2024





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Overview

Risks to waterwork infrastructure

Structures above ground

Distribution systems

Electrical safety

Risk mitigation

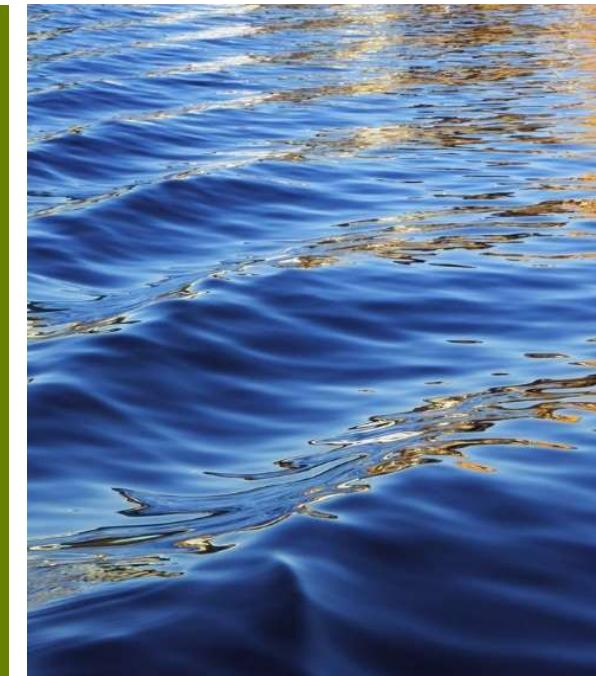
Risks to food safety

Volcanic gasses

Earthquakes

Eruptions on water protection area

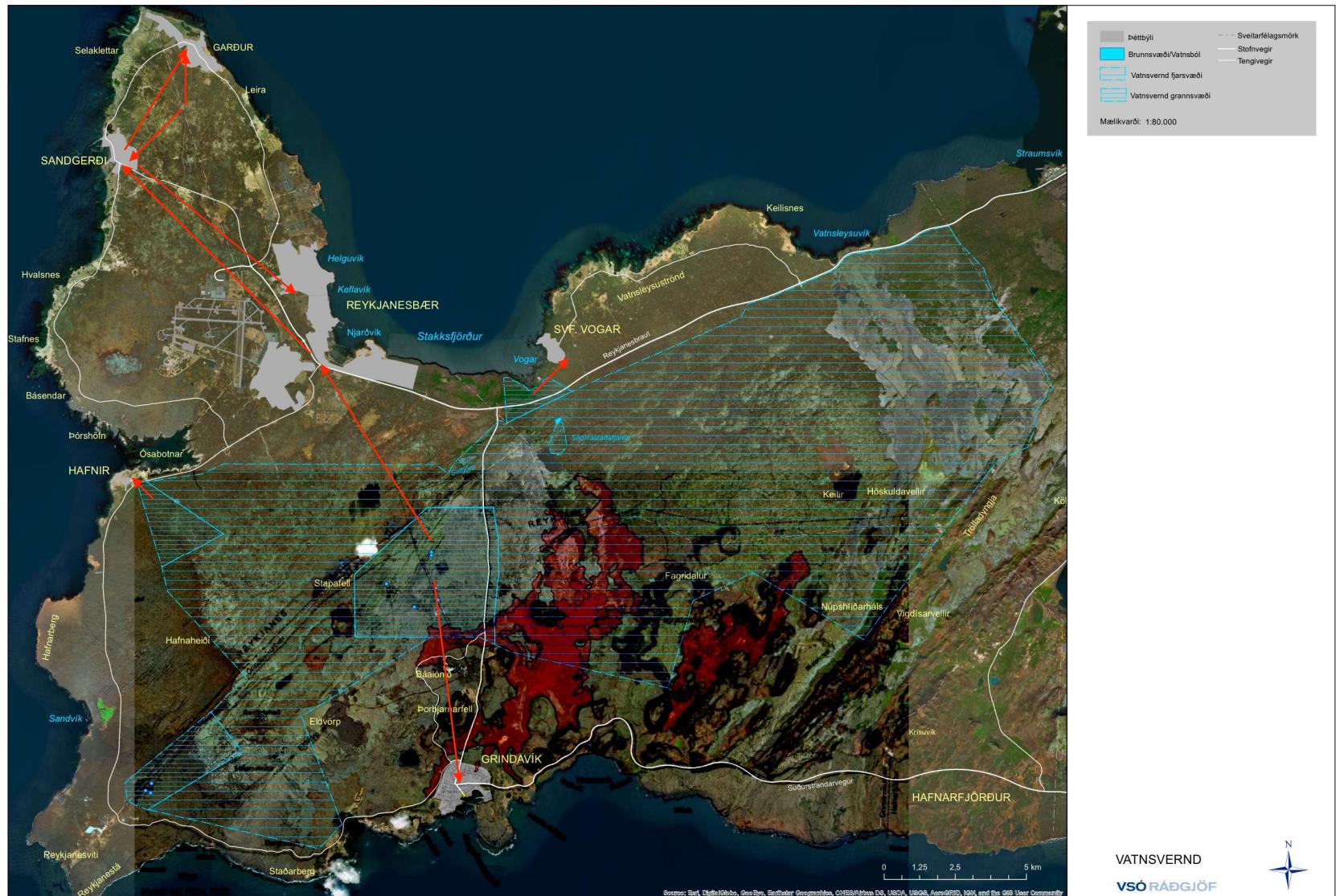
Volcanic gas and ash emission on water protection area





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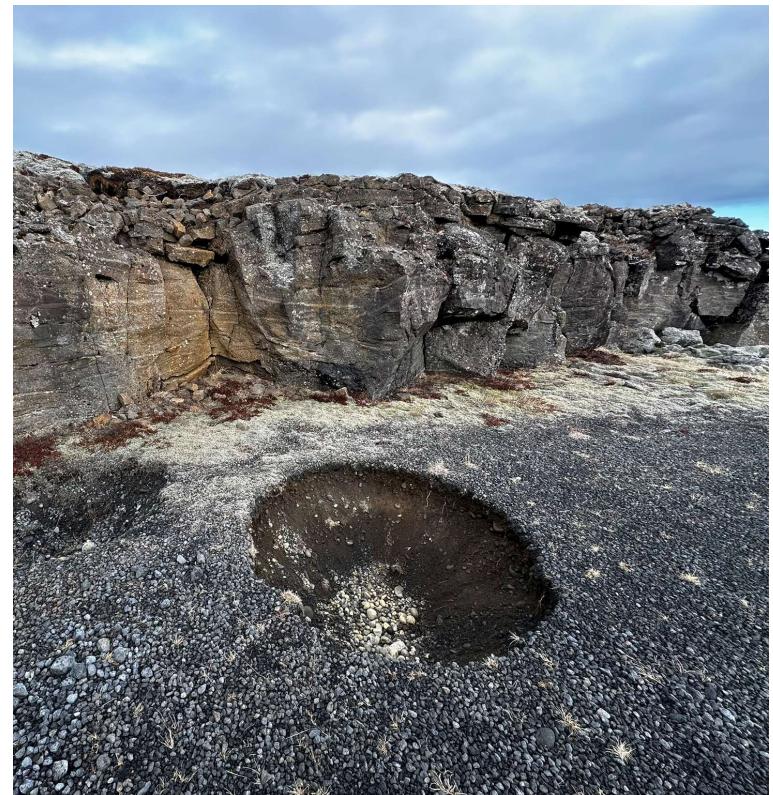
Risks to waterwork infrastructure



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Structures above ground

- Damages by earthquakes
- Damages by lava flow
- Not accessible due to lava flow and / or gas pollution



Risks to waterwork infrastructure

Distribution systems

- Underground pipes
 - Being run over by lava and overheating
 - Plastic pipes
- Damages by earthquakes
 - Elevated turbidity



Risks to waterwork infrastructure



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Electrical safety

- Electricity being cut off from pumps in water wells
- UV treatment inactive
- Online - realtime monitoring inactive
- Communication cut off



Risks to waterwork infrastructure



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Risk mitigation

- Waterwork with 2 groundwater sources
~20 km apart
- Online real-time monitoring of pH, conductivity, turbidity, F
- Diesel generator for electric emergency
- Portable remote control of water pumps



Risks to waterwork infrastructure



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Risk mitigation

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Risks to waterwork infrastructure



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Risks to food safety

- Volcanic gasses
 - $\text{SO}_2 \rightarrow$ sulphuric acid $\Rightarrow \downarrow \text{pH}$
 - H_2S and CO_2 dissolve in groundwater
 - Increased solubility of trace minerals (Fe, Al, Ni, Cd, Pb, Hg)

Risks to waterwork infrastructure



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Earthquakes

- Water / electrical outage
- Damaged distribution system and leakages

Risks to waterwork infrastructure



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Eruptions on water protection area

- Ground water heats up and earth minerals are dissolved
- Ground water turns into geothermal liquid
 - Changes to drinking water composition can occur very slowly
- Volcanic gas and ash emission on water protection area



Takk fyrir



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