

A Norwegian engineer at work

Greenland is the world's largest island. Most of the island is covered by an ice sheet. Only nineteen per cent of the island is free of ice and habitable for humans and animals. In this harsh environment live 57,000 people. The settlements are spread over a coastline of 44,087 kilometres.

These are some of the conditions for the development of the Greenlandic society. Small towns and settlements along the coast are surrounded by a dominating nature. The capital Nuuk has 16.000 inhabitants. Even though the town lies isolated in the wilderness, it is a city with every modern convenience. There are no roads out of the town. If you want to travel to other settlements, you had to travel by aeroplane, ferry or boat. A hundred kilometres east of the town the edge of the ice sheet starts.

The town is supplied with power from a hydroelectric power station. The Buksefjord Power Station is located isolated at the edge of the ice sheet south of Nuuk. The transmission line from the power station to Nuuk is 56 kilometres long. It is an advanced transmission line that extends its cables through the wilderness. The longest span covers five kilometres across the Ameralik Fiord.

Strong and sustained winds with the strength of a hurricane often turn off the power supply from the Buksefjord Power Station, and an emergency power station in Nuuk must be started until the normal power supply is restored.

This unique infrastructure creates many special jobs. The photo of the week shows a Norwegian engineer working on the cables on a pylon outside Nuuk.



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