

Monday May 25, 2015

We all woke up at 6 am in our cells for the last time, for today was our parole date. A feeling of excitement swept through us all as we prepared to step off this god forsaken island for the first time in what seemed like years. No breakfast was provided for us upon our departure. As we loaded into the vans, we were excited to sleep on the way to our first stop of the day, a nuclear waste station in Forsmark, about a two hour drive from the jail. Bryan had called shotgun, or perhaps was forced there as this was the worst spot in the morning because it meant we could not sleep. As the middle row was lined with Mike, Patsy, and Nick, the back row was myself and TJ. We were awake just long enough for Derek to pull a swift and illegal u-turn in the middle of Stockholm. Just as we were watching the other car point and laugh at us, Jonathan followed suit with a more illegal u-turn which failed miserably and wound up being a quality three point turn. After this escapade, we shared a laugh and passed out.

Many of us woke up only when we had arrived at the nuclear waste disposal plant. We were excited to stretch our legs and were greeted nicely by Inger, one of two people that would lead us on the tour. We began with a presentation which lasted about an hour where Inger described how SKB worked at the plant in Forsmark. What happens is a ship whose name escapes me brings shipments of nuclear waste about 10-12 times per year right there to the port near the plant. These crates or containers of nuclear waste are then taken underground to an excavated cave like area. They are deposited as cylindrical canisters 5 meters long and one meter in diameter and stacked where they are then filled with cement to reduce risk of exposure. In another area, the silo room, they are lowered with a crane and covered in a cement container. There must have been 40 square containers visible in the 30 meter diameter and 70 meter deep silo room. Only 5000 tons of waste had been stored there since it had been built in 1988, the same time the rest of the facility was created. Upon learning all of this information, we went to check it out. We were required to go through security screenings and got to wear cool helmets and capes. The caves were massive, and our friend Rolf talked to us about corrosion and further went over what each of the rooms did for the plant. Two guards followed us the whole time, presumably to hold doors, as they didn't do much else.



Upon leaving the plant, we traveled several furlongs down the road into the village of Forsmark. We ate a nice lunch of pasta and fruit, vegetable and traditional salad before saying goodbye to our guides Inger and Rolf. We strolled around Forsmark for a few minutes before departing to our next stop in Fagelfors. The picture on the left is of that night in Fagelfors.