



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

YMPÄRISTÖMINISTERIÖ<sup>1 (4)</sup>

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Finland  
Germany  
Poland  
Lithuania  
Russian Federation

**Consultation according to Article 3 point 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context regarding the Encapsulation plant and the Final repository for spent nuclear fuel in Sweden.**

In accordance with Article 3 point 2 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context a Notification was sent in December 2005 to Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation regarding their interest to participate in the EIA-procedure for the Encapsulation plant and the Final repository for spent nuclear fuel.

Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation expressed interest to participate in the consultations. Denmark, Estonia and Latvia wanted to be informed about the project, but did not want to participate in the consultations.

**Nature of the possible decision and EIA procedure in Sweden**

In order to dispose of the spent nuclear fuel, the developer plans to build an Encapsulation plant, where the spent nuclear fuel is encapsulated in copper canisters, and a Final repository at a depth of about 500 metres in the bedrock.

Both the Encapsulation plant and the Final repository require permits under the Nuclear Activities Act and under the Environmental Code. Both permit applications shall include an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and information about the consultations that have taken place pursuant the EIA-rules in the Environmental Code.

The EIA and applications for permits under the Environmental Code for both the Encapsulation plant and the Final repository will not be submitted until earliest 2009. Also the application for a permit under the Nuclear Activities Act for the Final repository will be submitted earliest 2009.

### **Timetable for consultations**

Consultations in accordance with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context are planned to take place in two steps. Background material for the first consultation is enclosed.

The second consultation is planned to be carried out when the EIA and permit applications are submitted.

### **Consultations - focus**

The consultations in accordance with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context should focus on activities or measures that are likely to have a significant environmental impact in another country.

The main environmental impacts due to the Encapsulation plant and the Final repository for spent nuclear fuel will be non-radiological consequences related to increase in traffic, transportations (noise, light, vibrations) due to handling of rock spoil and impact on groundwater table. Noise is judged to be the aspect that can have an impact furthest away. Elevated sound levels will be noticed a few kilometres from the facilities and along the roads.

The only possible activities or measures that might have an impact in other countries are related to release of radionuclides from the final repository. The consultations will therefore *focus on the long-term safety for the final repository*.

Referring to Article 3 point 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, Sweden invites the addressed parties to give their comments to the attached documents especially the suggested content of the EIA regarding transboundary effects and the long-term safety for the final repository. And to submit any comments you might receive from the public in your country.

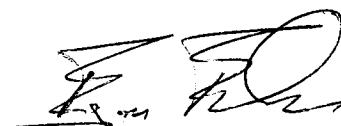
Please also note if you are interested in a consultation meeting.

Kindly send your answer **at the latest April 15, 2008** to: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, SE 106 48 Stockholm, SWEDEN. We appreciate to receive the answer in electronic form to [registrator@naturvardsverket.se](mailto:registrator@naturvardsverket.se) Please indicate Dnr 121- 6695-05 in your answer.

On behalf of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency



Martin Pahlman  
Head of Section



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Point of Contact

***Enclosure (on CD)***

Interim storage facility, encapsulation plant and final repository for spent nuclear fuel. Background information, Updated version. January 2008.

General structure of the EIS for the final repository system, to be submitted with the permit applications. December 2007.

Safety and radiation protection. May 2007.

Long-term safety for KBS-3 repositories at Forsmark and Laxemar – a first evaluation, Main report of the SR-Can project, October 2006

Long-term safety for KBS-3 repositories at Forsmark and Laxemar – a first evaluation, Summary of the SR-Can project. October 2006.

***More information:***

More information can be found at the web site of the developer Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Co. [www.skb.se](http://www.skb.se) and at the web site of the Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate [www.ski.se](http://www.ski.se).

**Send list:** Points of contact for notification:

[http://www.unece.org/env/eia/points\\_of\\_contact.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/eia/points_of_contact.htm)

and others mentioned in answers from each country

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