NATUR VÅRDS VERKET

SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Richard Kristoffersson
Phone: +46-10-698 17 69
richard.kristoffersson
@swedishepa.se

2026-10-07

Case number:
NV-25-049478

Finnish Environment Institute
(SYKE)
transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi
kirjaamo@syke.fi

Consultation in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding Kaunis Iron AB:s (KIAB) application for exploitation concession in Pajala municipality, Norrbotten county, Sweden

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) notified Finland on the 22nd of October 2025 of the developers plans to apply for an exploitation concession under the Swedish Minerals Act (SFS 1991:45) for an area designated as Tapuli K No. 3. Finland replied to SEPA that they request to participate in consultations in accordance with the Espoo Convention.

In accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), Sweden hereby invites Finland to submit comments on KIAB:s environmental impact assesment (EIA) for the application for an exploitation concession under the Swedish Minerals Act (SFS 1991:45).

The planned project
The developer, Kaunis Iron AB, has applied for an exploitation concession under the Swedish Minerals Act (SFS 1991:45) for an area designated as Tapuli K No. 4. Tapuli K No. 4 covers just over 30 hectares, affects the properties Pajala Kaunisvaara 13:1 and 26:4, and is located directly adjacent to the mining operations conducted by KIAB at the Tapuli mine, approximately 25 km north of Pajala in Norrbotten County. The concession area currently consists mainly of forest land and wetlands. Adjacent to the north and east of the concession area lies KIABs existing mining and industrial site.

If the exploitation concession is granted, the developer intends to apply for a permit under the Environmental Code for the extraction of mineral resources within the concession area and the associated operations. The activities will consist of open-pit mining and beneficiation of iron ore at the Kaunisvaara processing plant to produce a magnetite concentrate.

The EIA procedure in Sweden
Chapter 6 of the Swedish Environmental Code (1998:808) and the Swedish Environmental Assessment Ordinance (2017:966) regulate the EIA procedure in Sweden. The consultation in Sweden takes place between the 3rd of October and the 2 of November 2026. Following the consultation on the EIA report, the permitting authority will assess the application and EIA, as well as the statements and opinions provided during the consultation process, before granting or rejecting the application.

Upcoming process
The developer has now submitted an environmental impact assessment to the Mining Inspectorate in accordance with the Swedish Minerals Act (SFS 1991:45). If the developer receives an exploitation concession permit, the developer also needs to apply for a permit in accordance with the Swedish Environmental code. Finland will be notified in accordance with the Espoo-convention in that permit process as well.

Sweden kindly asks you to submit your comments **no later than 2nd of December 2026** and to:

- provide comments concerning the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project affecting your country.
- submit any comments you might receive from the public and the authorities in your country.

Kindly send the answer to this consultation by e-mail to: registrator@naturvardsverket.se. Please indicate Case number NV-25-049478 and “KIAB concession” in your answer.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures.

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Nanna Wikholm
Head of Unit

Richard Kristoffersson
Point of Contact, Espoo Convention

Attachments
Permit application (Swedish and Finnish)
Environmental impact assessment (Swedish and Finnish)
Overview map of the project area (Swedish and Finnish)
Consultation repoort (Finnish)
Concession Map (Finnish)

Cc.
The Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Ebba Kvarnebo Sunnergren