

Authority services

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SYKE/2025/514

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency  
Richard Kristoffersson  
registrator@natuvardsverket.se  
richard.kristoffersson@naturvardsverket.se  
espoo@swedishepa.se

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## **Finland's response to the revised notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding plans for nuclear facilities in Varberg municipality, Sweden**

The Finnish Environment Institute acknowledges that Finland has received the revised notification from Sweden on 6 March 2026 in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the plans for new nuclear facilities in the municipality of Varberg.

On 4 March 2025 the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency notified Finland regarding the plans for nuclear facilities in Varberg municipality, Sweden. Finnish Environment Institute replied on 11 April 2025 that Finland participates to the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure.

The developer, Vattenfall, has updated the scoping consultation document as they have decided upon, and chosen to proceed with two suppliers for modular reactors. Vattenfall has rejected the previous plan to investigate the possibility of large-scale conventional nuclear reactors. The scoping document has also been supplemented with information about a possible supplementary port and information that the upcoming application will include handling and storage of spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste within the operational area. The planned new nuclear power plant on the Värö Peninsula will consist of three or five modular reactors with a total electrical output of around 1,500 MWe and are expected to produce around 12 TWh of electricity per year.

### **Consultation in Finland**

According to the Finnish Act on Environmental Impact Assessment (252/2017), the Finnish Environment Institute is the competent authority and responsible for information and consultation tasks under the Espoo Convention. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency requested to provide comments concerning the scope of the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project affecting Finland and to submit comments from the public and the authorities in Finland.

The public and the authorities were given the opportunity to comment on the consultation documents from 11 March to 24 April 2026, which were available on the website of Finland's environmental

administration and on the website of lausuntopalvelu.fi. Statements were also requested from relevant stakeholders.

## Remarks received during the consultation

The Finnish Environment Institute has prepared an English summary of the 10 statements received in Finland. The original statements in Finnish or Swedish, which are enclosed to this letter, need to be examined and taken into consideration in the EIA.

### Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK)

#### Previous related statements

STUK has previously received two requests for a statement regarding the new nuclear power plant in Varberg:

- Request for a statement SYKE/2025/514, to which a response was provided in statement STUK 30/0202/2025, 28 March 2025
- Request for a statement SYKE/2025/2240, to which a response was provided in statement STUK 115/0202/2025, 8 December 2025

The updated consultation document and its appendices do not alter STUK's previous conclusion.

STUK notes that the impact mechanisms relevant to potential radiation effects have been identified in the material submitted with previous requests for statements (SYKE/2025/514, SYKE/2025/2240). It can be concluded from the material concerning the project's EIA procedure (SYKE/2025/514) that no significant environmental impacts on Finland can be identified insofar as the impacts relate to radiation effects.

### VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

VTT previously submitted a statement on this matter on March 19, 2025.

In its previous statement, VTT noted that, according to the views of VTT's experts on severe reactor accidents and the dispersion of radioactive substances, due to the remote location of the plant site relative to Finland, the project has no environmental impacts that could affect Finland. The changes highlighted in the project planning have no impact on this view of VTT.

### Geological Survey of Finland

GTK has no comments on the updated consultation documents. GTK's view is that, in the event of a potential accident, the significant distance provides sufficient protection for Finland.

### Finnish Supervisory Authority

The Finnish Supervisory Authority considers the consultation document to have been properly prepared and has no comments on the matter. The new nuclear power plant is planned to be located more than 500 km away from the Åland Islands and more than 600 km away from mainland Finland. The project site is located on the west coast of Sweden, not on the shores of the Baltic Sea. During normal operation, the planned nuclear power plant will not cause any adverse effects on Finnish territory due to its location.

Regarding the consequences of a potential serious nuclear power plant accident, the Finnish Supervisory Authority refers to the statements issued by Finland's radiation protection expert authorities during the previous consultation round.

### **Åland society for Nature and Environment**

Åland society for Nature and Environment opposes the further development of the new nuclear power plant project in Varberg and considers the updated assessment of the project to be incomplete and premature. Åland society for Nature and Environment particularly criticizes the accident assessments, which are considered outdated due to the changed global security situation, as well as the disregard for military and sabotage risks associated with nuclear power. A key concern relates to the long-term storage of high-level nuclear waste: there is no concrete and credible solution, current plans and methods are scientifically questioned, and the issue of responsibility and knowledge transfer to future generations remains unresolved. The organization considers the planning of new nuclear power ethically untenable without a clear final disposal plan and believes that permits should not be granted as long as the nuclear waste issue remains unresolved. Additionally, the project threatens areas of high natural value, which contradicts the EU's nature restoration objectives. See the full statement for details.

### **Ministry of Social Affairs and Health**

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has nothing to add to the statement it previously issued on this matter (December 5, 2025, SYKE/2025/2240).

### **Finnish Heritage Agency**

The project is located in the municipality of Varberg, about 50 kilometers south of Gothenburg. The Finnish Heritage Agency has no comments to make regarding cultural heritage in Finland in this matter.

**Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes)** did not give a statement on the matter.

**Economic Development Centre of Southwest Finland** and **Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare** did not have any comment on the matter.

## **Conclusions**

Finland has already in the previous response announced its participation in the project's EIA procedure. The changes made to the project plans do not alter the assessments presented in previous consultations from Finland's perspective. In the further assessment of the project, it is important to further consider issues related to safety, storing and the final disposal of nuclear waste. To conclude, the Finnish Environment Institute reminds Sweden on the need to include in the EIA documentation a transboundary environmental impact assessment from Finland's perspective.



Head of Services

Jenni Juslén

Senior Officer,  
Point of Contact to the Espoo Convention

Hanne Rajanen

*This document has been electronically signed. The electronic signatures can be verified from the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute.*

## Appendices

Received statements in Finland

## For information

Ministry for the Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of the Environment  
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health  
Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority  
VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland  
Geological Survey of Finland  
Finnish Supervisory Agency  
Åland Society for Nature and Environment  
Finnish Heritage Agency  
Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency  
Economic Development Centre of Southwest Finland  
Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare