

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
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Finland's response to the notification in accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention regarding a detailed plan for new nuclear power on the Värö Peninsula, Varberg municipality in Sweden

The Finnish Environment Institute acknowledges the receipt of the notification dated 12 November 2025 and the accompanying consultation documents from Sweden. The notification was sent in accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. The notification concerns the scoping phase of the strategic environmental impact assessment of a detailed plan for new nuclear power on the Värö Peninsula, Varberg municipality, Sweden.

Varberg municipality is located on the Swedish west coast of approximately 50 kilometers south of Gothenburg. The municipality has prepared a scoping document for a strategic environmental assessment for a detailed development plan for new nuclear power facilities on the peninsula Värö. There is an existing nuclear power plant in the area and the developer, Vattenfall, intends to apply for a permit under Chapter 9 of the Swedish Environmental Code for the development and operation of new nuclear power facilities. The detailed plan is a prerequisite for the permit and the Municipal Council is the competent authority that can adopt the plan in Sweden.

Consultation in Finland

According to the Finnish Act on the Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Plans and Programmes of Authorities (200/2005, amendments 912/2022), the Finnish Environment Institute is the competent authority for consultation tasks related to SEA Protocol in Finland.

In its notification the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency requested to indicate, whether Finland intends to participate in the SEA procedure, and provide comments concerning the scope for the strategic impact assessment affecting Finland and submit comments from the public and the authorities in Finland.

Finnish authorities, residents and communities were invited to submit statements and express their opinions between 14 November and 22 December 2025 regarding the consulted documents. These were available on the website of Finland's environmental administration and on the website of lausuntopalvelu.fi. Statements were also requested from relevant stakeholders.



Statements received in Finland

The Finnish Environment Institute received ten responses during the consultation period in Finland. An English summary of these statements is provided below. The original statements, which were received in Finnish or Swedish, are enclosed with this letter.

The Ministry of Defence

The Finnish Environment Institute has requested a statement from the Ministry of Defence on Finland's need to participate in the SEA procedure concerning the local plan for a nuclear power plant in the municipality of Varberg, Sweden.

On 12 November 2025, the Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) received preliminary notification from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket) of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SopS 69/2010) attached to the UN Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (SopS 67/1997, Espoo Convention) concerning strategic environmental assessment (SopS 69/2010).

The municipality of Varberg in Sweden is preparing a local detailed plan for Värö peninsula, near the Ringhals nuclear power plant. The aim is to enable the construction of a new nuclear power plant (3–5 small modular reactors, 300–500 MWe) and related functions (workshops, offices, accommodation, parking, electrical substations). The project supports Sweden's goal of fossil-free electricity production by 2040.

The Ministry of Defence has concluded that Finland's involvement in the SEA procedure is not necessary from the national deference's perspective.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health refers to the environmental impact assessment of the nuclear power plant in spring 2025 in connection with the Espoo Convention, on which the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health issued the following statement:

"The document attached to the request for a statement, 'Background to the Consultation on Transboundary Impacts Date: 2025-02-19' attached to the request for comments, it is clear that even in the most serious accident scenario for the nuclear reactor located in Varberg, 50 kilometres South of Gothenburg, i.e. a core meltdown, approximately 100 terabecquerels of radioactive contamination could be released into the air, which would cause an average lifetime dose of only 0.3-0.4 mSv to newborns in Finland and Åland. The average lifetime radiation dose for Finns (70 years) is 413 mSv (70 x 5.9 mSv).

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health does not consider it necessary for Finland to participate in the environmental impact assessment of the new nuclear power plant to be built in Varberg, Sweden, from the perspective of the effects of a radiation hazard situation targeting Finland."

Based on the above, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health does not need to comment on the strategic environmental impact assessment of the Varberg nuclear power plant's local plan.



Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK)

Syke requested a statement on Finland's need to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedure for the new nuclear power plant in Varberg, Sweden, in March 2025 (SYKE/2025/514, 7 March 2025).

In its statement (STUK 30/0202/2025), STUK stated that it does not consider it necessary for Finland to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedure for the new nuclear power plant to be built in Varberg, Sweden, from the perspective of the possible radiation impacts on Finland.

After assessing the statements it received, Syke decided that Finland will participate in the environmental impact assessment procedure. SYKE has notified the relevant authorities in Sweden of this matter (11 April 2025).

As conclusion, STUK notes that the materials submitted with the request for comments identify the impact mechanisms that are relevant in terms of possible radiation impacts. The material concerning the EIA procedure for the project (SYKE/2025/514) shows that no significant environmental impacts on Finland can be identified in terms of radiation effects.

For the above reasons, STUK does not consider it necessary for Finland to participate in the strategic environmental impact assessment of the new nuclear power plant in Varberg, Sweden.

The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare

The National Institute for Health and Welfare is thanking for the opportunity to comment on the strategic environmental impact assessment of the local plan for a new nuclear power plant in Varberg, Sweden. They have no comments on the matter.

Geological Survey of Finland (GTK)

The Geological Survey of Finland is thanking for the opportunity to comment and states that it has no comments on the matter. The new plant is several hundred kilometres from Finland and the area is in western Sweden, not on the coast of the Baltic Sea.

GTK's view is that, in the event of a potential accident, the considerable distance provides sufficient protection for Finland.

The North Savo Regional Council

The North Savo Regional Council is thanking for the opportunity to submit a statement. The North Savo Regional Council notes that they have no role in the strategic environmental impact assessment of the local plan for the new nuclear power plant in Varberg, Sweden.

The Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council

The Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council is thanking for the request for a statement and informs that they will not be issuing a statement on the strategic environmental impact assessment of the new nuclear power plant in Varberg, Sweden.

The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland

The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland has reviewed the request for comments and has no comments on the preliminary notification



concerning the strategic environmental impact assessment (SEA) of the local detailed plan for a new nuclear power plant in Varberg in Sweden.

The Government of Åland

The municipality of Varberg in Sweden is preparing a local plan for Värönniemi, near the Ringhals nuclear power plant. The aim is to enable the construction of a new nuclear power plant (3–5 small modular reactors, 300–500 MWe) and associated facilities (workshops, offices, housing, parking, electrical substations). The project supports Sweden's goal of fossil-free electricity production by 2040.

The local detailed plan is expected to have a significant environmental impact, which requires a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and cross-border consultation in accordance with the Espoo Convention. The cross-border effects of the plan are assessed to be related to human health and the environment, and these effects are limited to air emissions. The risks are limited to those associated with the nuclear power plant, i.e. radiological consequences during operation and in accident situations, as well as the cumulative effects of Ringhals' nuclear power operations. In addition, the plan will have a climate impact, which is limited to emissions that may have both positive and negative effects on the climate.

The Provincial Government has decided to submit the following statement: As far as Åland is concerned, Finland does not need to participate in the SEA procedure.

An opinion of a private company

Platom Oy (the nuclear expert company) would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit a statement on the strategic environmental impact assessment of the new nuclear power plant in Varberg, Sweden, i.e. the environmental impact assessment of the new local detailed plan for Skällåkra 6:4. In our view, the project will not have any cross-border negative environmental impacts on Finland.

Participation in the transboundary SEA procedure

The Finnish Environment Institute received nine statements and an opinion. After evaluating the responses, the Finnish Environment Institute has decided that Finland will not take part in the SEA procedure for the detailed development plan for new nuclear facilities in the municipality of Varberg in Sweden. However, we would like to receive the results of the strategic impact assessment, including the environmental report, for information, once they are available.

Head of services

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Point of Contact to the Espoo Convention

Ulla Helminen

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



For information

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Environment
The Ministry of Defence
The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK)
The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare
Geological Survey of Finland (GTK)
The North Savo Regional Council
The Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council
The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for
Southwest Finland
The Government of Åland

