

Authority services

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Finland's response to Norway in accordance with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) concerning the scoping document for the Davvi wind power zoning plan

The Finnish Environment Institute hereby acknowledges that Finland has received a notification in accordance with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and consultation documents on 12 July 2023 from Norway concerning the scoping document for the Davvi wind farm zoning plan. Grenselandet DA, St1 as a majority owner, is planning to build the Davvi wind farm in the Municipality of Lebesby in Finnmark, Norway. A zoning plan, of which the Municipality of Lebesby is responsible, intends to allow the construction of the wind farm with a maximum capacity of 800 megawatts (MW) and associated infrastructure. Annual production is estimated to be approximately 3,4 terawatt hours (TWh). A maximum of 160 wind turbines with a capacity of 5-12 MW and a maximum height of 200 metres are planned for the site.

The wind farm has previously been subject of a transboundary consultation in accordance with the Espoo Convention in Finland. The Ministry of the Environment organised a public consultation concerning the planned project's environmental impact assessment (EIA) programme from 1 November to 8 December 2017, and informed Finland's participation in the EIA procedure on 19 January 2018. Previously, the developer planned to build a power line to Finland but has withdrawn from the plan, and the project area has been relocated further north.

Consultation in Finland

According to the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (252/2017, amendments 911/2022) and the Act on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (200/2005, amendments 912/2022), the Finnish Environment Institute is the competent authority for the coordination of the transboundary hearing and consultation tasks related to the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) from 1 January 2023.



The Norwegian Environment Agency requested the Finnish Environment Institute to distribute the consultation documents, which were provided in Finnish, to the relevant parties and to submit any comments from the relevant parties in Finland. Due to the requirement to translate the documents into Northern Sámi and to allocate time for comments after the public meeting, which was arranged in the Municipality of Utsjoki on 11 October 2023, Norway granted upon request an extension of time limit for the submission of Finland's statements.

The public and authorities were given an opportunity to comment on the consultation documents from 30 August to 20 October 2023. The consultation documents were available, and statements were asked on the website of Finland's environmental administration and on the website of electronic public consultation. In addition, announcements in Finnish and Northern Sámi were published on two newspapers.

The Finnish Environment Institute received twelve statements from the following authorities and stakeholders: Saami Council, Metsähallitus, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centre) for Lapland, Sámi Museum Siida, WWF Finland, Regional Council of Lapland, Amnesty International Finland, Reindeer Herders' Association, Municipality of Utsjoki, Sámi Parliament, Finnish Association for Nature Conservation and Finnish Sámi Youth Association. In addition, nineteen private individuals submitted statements either together or separately.

Remarks received during the consultation

Overall, the received statements include similar views which focus on, inter alia, the following impacts on the Finnish side: protection of Sámi culture, Finnish nationally valuable landscape areas, visibility issues, fauna, reindeer husbandry, tourism industry, natural environment, climate change, and ecological, social and economic impacts on the Sámi. According to the majority of statements, if the project is constructed, the wind farm and its infrastructure will have significant negative impacts on the Sámi culture, livelihoods and natural values, and the plan does not have the support of the Sámi stakeholders and local residents.

The Finnish Environment Institute expects that if the plan is taken forward, the comments addressed in the statements will be given special attention and taken into account in further assessment and planning. It is essential that the remarks are assessed and adequate mitigation measures are addressed. A summary of statements, which is enclosed to this letter, summarises the comments of the Finnish authorities, other stakeholders and private individuals. In order to take into consideration detailed observations in further procedures, the original statements should be considered in their entirety.

Finland intends to continue participation

The Finnish Environment Institute states that the public and authorities in Finland should be kept informed on possible upcoming processes and given a possibility to participate in them. According to the received statements the planning of the wind farm, including the zoning plan, is likely to have significant impacts on Finland and the rights of the Sámi. For the purpose to obtain the most relevant information and to increase knowledge on the Sámi culture and all the aspects related to it, to the Finnish Environment Institute highlights the importance of involving the relevant Sámi authorities and other stakeholders in transboundary assessments and consultations.



The Finnish Environment Institute notes that the transboundary impacts on Finland which are raised in the statements should be clearly presented in possible further documentation. The Finnish Environment Institute wishes to note that cumulative impacts of several wind farms in the same area can cause significant impacts, and concludes that all contributing factors should be known and their impacts assessed to ensure that the decision on the implementation of the plan and the project is based on firm knowledge of its impacts.

Head of authority services

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

Appendices

Original received statements
 Summary of statements in English

For information

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
 Ministry of the Environment
 Saami Council
 Metsähallitus
 ELY Centre for Lapland
 Sámi Museum Siida
 WWF Finland
 Regional Council of Lapland
 Amnesty International Finland
 Reindeer Herders' Association
 Municipality of Utsjoki
 Sámi Parliament
 Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
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