

Richard Kristoffersson
 Tel: 010-698 17 69
 richard.kristoffersson
 @naturvardsverket.se

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Ärendenr:
 NV-25-054761

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

Notification in accordance with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding plans to construct an underground hydrogen pipeline between Haparanda and Boden in Norrbotten County

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency hereby notifies Finland, in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention of the intention to apply for a permit for the project as the project is expected to have transboundary impacts.

Information about the planned project

The developer, Nordion Energi H2 AB plans to apply for a concession under the Pipeline Act (1978:160) to construct an underground hydrogen pipeline between Haparanda and Boden in Norrbotten County. The pipeline in that route is approximately 127 kilometres long and affects the municipalities of Haparanda, Kalix, Luleå, and Boden. It constitutes one of six Swedish segments within the cross-border project Nordic Hydrogen Route (NHR), which aims to enable large-scale distribution of fossil-free hydrogen in the Nordic region. The now relevant segment of the project is part of the planned Nordic Hydrogen Route (NHR) gas transmission network between Sweden and Finland.

As the project is a cross-border project, transboundary environmental impacts are expected and are further addressed in the attached consultation document

Attached to this notification letter is the developer's consultation document for the transboundary consultation, which contains a detailed description of the project and its anticipated environmental impacts.

For further information and maps of the project area, please visit the developers project-page (Swedish):

<https://nordionenergi.se/projekt/vatgasinfrastruktur/nordic-hydrogen-route/vatgasledning-haparanda-boden/dokument-och-kartor>

Upcoming procedure and applicable legislation

A concession is required for pipelines used to transport crude oil, refined oil products, or other liquids or gases intended for use as fuel, in accordance with the Pipeline Act (1978:160). The maximum validity period for a concession for certain pipelines is 40 years. During the assessment process, Chapters 2–4 and Chapter 5, Sections 3–5 and 18 of the Environmental Code are applied. When preparing a concession application, Chapter 6 of the Environmental Code, concerning specific environmental assessment, must be followed.

After the consultation process is completed, the received comments will be compiled and addressed in a consultation report, which will be attached to the application. Further investigations will then be carried out, and a final route will be selected based on a comprehensive assessment in which the received feedback plays an important role.

Following this, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be prepared, forming the basis for the upcoming concession application to the Swedish Energy Markets Inspectorate (Ei). The application is then submitted to Ei, but under current legislation, it is the Swedish Government that decides whether a concession will be granted.

Public event

A public event will be held in Finland on 18 February 2026 from 18.00 onwards at Tornio Park Arena (Itäranta 4, Tornio). The coffee service is included and starts at 17:00. The event will be bilingual (Finnish and Swedish). It is possible to participate in the event also remotely using YouTube stream. The link will be available soon on the Finnish project's website:

<http://www.ymparisto.fi/kansallinen-vedyn-siirtoverkko-meri-lappi-YVA>

General information on consultation under the Espoo Convention

According to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, a Party of origin intending to carry out a project or activity that is likely to cause significant transboundary environmental or health impacts shall notify the affected Party and, if the affected Party so wishes, initiate consultations.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is, pursuant to the Environmental Assessment Ordinance (2017:966), the competent authority responsible for issuing and receiving notifications and otherwise fulfilling obligations related to environmental impact assessments in a transboundary context.

Participating in the transboundary EIA-procedure

Referring to Article 3.3 of the Espoo Convention, Sweden kindly asks for eventual comments **no later than the 3rd of April 2026** at the latest and:

1. acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
2. indicate whether your state intends to participate in the EIA procedure
3. provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project on your territory
4. submit any comments you might receive from the public in your state.

Kindly send the answer to this notification by e-mail to:

registrator@naturvardsverket.se cc: espoo@swedishepa.se Please indicate Case number NV-25-054761

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:
Consultation document (Swedish and Finnish)

Cc:
Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Bastian Ljunggren