



SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

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Case number
NV-05161-23

To the point of contact in Finland

Notification regarding Pajala municipality's environmental impact assessment for the zoning plan of the Sahavaara mine

Pursuant to article 9 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessments in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), affected countries shall be notified about plans and programs that might cause a transboundary environmental impact. As a party of origin, Sweden hereby notifies Finland about Pajala municipality's environmental impact assessment for the zoning plan of the Sahavaara mine, covered by article 4 point 2 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessments in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention).

Information on the zoning plan

Pajala municipality intends to draft a zoning plan for the properties Kaunisvaara 1:7 and others to create planning conditions for the development of Kaunis Iron AB's (KIAB) existing mining operations adjacent to the plan area. The current plan area consists of approximately 909 ha in which KIAB means to mine iron ore deposits. The planning area for the current detailed plan has not yet been drawn up and includes the area for the new opencast mine and the transport route to the nearby processing plant in Kaunisvaara, also owned by KIAB.

The plan area is located approximately 17 kilometres north of Pajala central town in Norrbotten County, Sweden. The plan area is covered by numerous properties and joint ventures which is why the eastern part of the plan area includes a safety zone of approximately 750 – 780 meters.

Participating in the transboundary SEA-procedure

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Pajala municipality has assessed that the zoning plan in question confirms the plan document what has already been processed in the EIA-case concerning Kaunis Iron AB permit application and its associated Espoo-process. The current plan sets out to regulate the use of land for activities covered by KIAB's permit (which has been appealed) and does not include anything that has not yet been covered by the permit application and information that emerged during the main hearing for the permit application. Therefore, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Pajala municipality has agreed that the zoning plan in question would not be

relevant for a formal notification to Finland. However, Finland has the right to be informed about the plan in question as the EIA refers to the *Torne River* system and describes how different substances are carried by the surface water from the mining site and the potential dilution on its way to the *Muonio River* and in the *Torne River* itself. After informal consultations, Finland has requested for Sweden to send a formal notification for the zoning plan.

The documentation, the draft plans, and the environmental reports, will be provided in electronic form. It will be sent by e-mail to the Point of Contacts for the Espoo protocol in Finland and be available in Swedish and, when requested, in Finnish.

Sweden kindly requests a response **no later than the 8th of September 2023** regarding the following:

1. Acknowledge having received this notification,
2. Indicate whether your country wishes to participate in the SEA-procedure,
3. Inform if there are any transboundary planning issues for Pajala Municipality to consider,
4. Submit any comments received from the public in Finland,
5. Signal any other technical details: e.g., regarding the documentation form, requests for additional languages for the translation of the non-technical summary or other information related to potential transboundary impacts.

Kindly send the answer to this notification by e-mail to: registrator@naturvardsverket.se. Please indicate case number: NV-05161-23 and “Sahavaara mine” in your answer.

For more information regarding the zoning plan, please contact:

Pajala Municipality

Ewa K. Lassi, Spatial Planner

E-mail: ewa.k.lassi@pajala.se

Phone number: +46 (0)978 – 12 15 9

For more information regarding the Espoo-procedure in Sweden please contact:

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Egon Enocksson, Point of Contact for the Espoo protocol

E-mail: egon.enocksson@swedishepa.se

Phone number: +46 (0)10 – 698 11 91

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures.

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Sara Beckman

Acting Head of Division

Emma Hundertmark

Desk officer

Attachments

- MKB till DP Sahavaara gruva – Samrådshandling – översättning finska (Available in Finnish)
- Bildtexter till och med punkt 7
- Bildtexter från punkt 7

For the full environmental impact assessment for the zoning plan of the Sahavaara mine, please see Pajala Municipality's website (in Swedish only):

<https://www.pajala.se/media/5hxln0hj/mkb-till-dp-sahavaara-gruva-samr%C3%A5dshandling.pdf>

CC

Sandra Jalalian and Bastian Ljunggren at the Ministry of Climate and Enterprise
Ewa K. Lassi at Pajala Municipality