



Richard Kristoffersson
Phone: +46-10-698 17 69
richard.kristoffersson
@swedishepa.se

2022-06-14 Case number:
NV-00613-19

Ministry of the Environment
kirjaamo@ym.fi
Seija Rantakallio
seija.rantakallio@ym.fi

Consultation in accordance with Articles 5 of the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding Kaunis Iron AB (KIAB) permit application for continued and expanded mining operations at Tapuli, Palotieva and Sahavaara mines with associated operations at Kaunisvaara in Pajala municipality.

In 2021, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) invited Finland in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Espoo Convention to comment on KIABs permit application and associated environmental impact assessment. Due to comments received, KIAB has now prepared a reply to received comments and additional investigations. SEPA now invites Finnish authorities, organisations and the public to take part of and a possibility to comments on KIABs reply and the new documentations provided.

The planned project

The activities included in the application regards mining operations in the form of mining up to 20 million tonnes of ore per year in open pit mines at Tapuli, Palotieva and Sahavaara, Pajala municipality. In addition, the application includes processing of the ore in Kaunisvaara dressing plant in Pajala municipality and intake and discharge of water in the border river Muonio Älv and disposal of extractive waste (enrichment sand, waste rock, moraine peat). Sub-quantities of the waste are potentially acid-forming and constitute hazardous waste.

Due to the additional mining and enrichment of the Palotieva and Sahavara ores, the planned activities require e.g. an expanded project area and expanded water operations that affect the Natura 2000 area, Torne and Kalix river system.

Upcoming process

The Swedish environmental court in Umeå has now planned the dates for the main hearing of the case in Pajala, starting the 29th or 30th of August with preliminary last date the 16th of September. All eventual comments to the additional documentations will be translated into Swedish so that the company can respond to these at the latest in connection with the main hearing. The court's decision shall be announced within two months after the main hearing was concluded.

The Swedish environmental court in Umeå has, through their responsibilities according to the Finnish-Swedish border river agreement, also provided KIABs additional statements and documentations directly to the Finnish parties who has left statements in the earlier consultation.

The Swedish environmental protection agency kindly asks Finland to submit eventual comments from Finnish authorities, organisations and the public to KIABs reply and additional documents **no later than 3rd of August 2022.**

Kindly send the answer to this consultation by e-mail to:
registrator@naturvardsverket.se. Please indicate Case number NV-00613-19 and “Kaunis Iron” in your answer.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Ulrika Gunnesby
Head of Unit

Richard Kristoffersson
Point of Contact, Espoo Convention

Attachments

KIABs reply to Finnish statements
Applicants supplement, appendix 1
Appendix 4, Basis for assessment of uranium in mining recipients
Supplement Annex H16, distribution and dilution of overflow water, 2022-02-14
Applicants supplement, Appendix 5, Terms and commitments, 2022-03-06
Appendix H20, verification of results, hydrodynamic model Muonio river, 2022-02-22
Presentation of water chemical sampling, Tapulivuoma
Appendix A2.E, Process water composition
Appendix 1.1 Metal levels in nearby recipients after closure of mining operations
Appendix 1.2, Updated environmental assessments regarding impact on surface water
Appendix 1.5 Environmental surveys in surface water deposits around the iron ore mine in Kaunisvaara

Cc.

The Ministry of the Environment, Emma Sjöberg