



7.12.2022

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency  
registrator@naturvardsverket.se

Notification by Sweden on Aurora Line (NV-02575-20)

## **Consultation in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for the planned 400 kV power line between Messaure and Keminmaa, Aurora Line.**

The Ministry of the Environment acknowledges that Finland received a supplement to the EIA documentation for the planned 400 kV power line between Messaure and Keminmaa "Aurora Line" in a letter dated 1 November 2022. The supplement sent by Sweden included a landscape and cultural environment survey as well as the project developers reply to the comments received from Finland.

The Ministry of the Environment gave the opportunity for the public and the authorities to comment on the material from 4 November to 30 November 2022. The material was displayed on the Ministry's website. Answers were received from the following parties: Regional Council of Lapland and affected private persons. The Reindeer Herders' Association and Fingrid Oyj replied that they would not give a statement. The given statements are enclosed to this letter and need to be considered in their entirety.

### **Previous consultation on Aurora Line**

In a letter dated 30 March 2020, Sweden notified Finland according to article 3 of the Espoo Convention of the Swedish part of the planned 400 kV power line between Messaure and Keminmaa. In its answer to the notification, the Ministry of the Environment stated that Finland would participate in the EIA.

Sweden sent Finland the EIA documentation in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Espoo Convention in a letter dated 4 April 2022. The Ministry of the Environment distributed the consultation material to several authorities, NGOs and affected private persons. The period for collecting comments was arranged from 20 April to 20 May 2022. The public also had the opportunity to comment on the material. In its reply to Sweden, Finland stated that the EIA documentation did not include sufficient information on the project's transboundary effects on the landscape and cultural environment on the Finnish side of the river. Finland requested a supplement to the EIA documentation with more detailed information on these transboundary effects.



### **Finland considers the supplement to the EIA documentation sufficient**

The supplementary material to the EIA documentation includes a survey on the project's effects to the landscape and cultural environment on the Finnish side of the river. The survey also includes photographs and visualization performed from multiple crossing points on the Finnish side of the river. The survey was performed by Sitowise Oy. The developer of the project has also sent its reply to the comments received from Finland in the previous consultation phase.

Based on the received comments, and reflecting its own views, the Ministry of the Environment states that Finland considers the supplement to the EIA documentation and its assessment of the project's transboundary effects sufficient. The Ministry of the Environment considers the Espoo convention consultation concluded.

Permanent secretary

Juhani Damski

Specialist

Anniina Kaikkonen

Enclosure

Statements from Finland