



Norwegian Public Roads Administration
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Answer to the notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding harbor and road to harbor in Høybukta vest in Sør-Varanger municipality, Norway

Finland has received notification on 8 August, 2017 from Norway concerning environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the plans for harbor and road to harbor in Høybukta vest in Sør-Varanger municipality. A scoping report was included to the notification.

Finland acknowledges the receipt of the notification. Additionally Finland has been in direct contact with the Norwegian Environmental Agency to clarify the bilateral practices between Parties.

In order to provide equal opportunity for the public and authorities to comment the scoping document the material was provided in Finnish. Additionally Finland provided the relevant material in two Sami languages spoken in the area.

Finland has distributed the notification and its attached material to several authorities, Sami administration and environmental NGOs. The public has had the opportunity to comment on the material as well. The period for public participation and for collecting comments was arranged from 15 December, 2017 to 15 January, 2018. The material was made available for reading in the municipalities of Inari and Utsjoki, and was also posted on the Internet.

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment states that it doesn't have any comments.

Metsähallitus (a state enterprise for state-owned land and water areas) emphasizes the developments potential impacts on anadromous fish in Neiden River.

Regional Council of Lapland states that the development of the port may have an impact on traffic on the Finnish side as well as on transport. The development of the harbor may be relevant to the planning and possible realization of the Arctic Railway in the future. However, the Regional Council of Lapland does not consider these effects as significant transboundary impacts.

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centre)

According to ELY center of Lapland there is no ongoing project in Finland to be connected with the plans for harbor and road to harbor in Høybukta vest. The ELY Centre considers that the project will not have significant environmental impacts on the Finnish side.

The Municipality of Inari notes that the development of the port will contribute to the realization of the Arctic Railway project as well. It emphasizes the developments potential impacts on anadromous fish in Neiden River and considers it necessary to participate in the project's EIA procedure.

The Finnish Sámi Parliament and the Skolt Sámi Village Committee considers that Finland should participate in the Norwegian EIA procedure, as the project is likely to have impacts on the fishery in the Rivers Neiden and Uutua, on their fish stocks (especially the anadromous fish species) and hence have impacts on the Sámi, in particular Skolt Sámi fishing traditions. The project may weaken opportunities to exercise and maintain their traditional fishing industry protected by the constitution. Fishing is basis for the Skolt Sámi culture. The impact assessment should be based on an adequate knowledge base so that the impacts can be identified and evaluated reliably. Sámi's traditional knowledge has to be integrated into basic investigations. In defining the significance of impacts, the Sámi communities in the region play a key role.

Based on the statements received and consideration of its own views, the **Ministry of the Environment** confirms that Finland will participate in the EIA of the plans for harbor and road to harbor in Høybukta vest in Sør-Varanger municipality. The most significant transboundary potential impacts focus on anadromous fish in Neiden River and on the Skolt Sámi traditional fishing industry. The Ministry of the Environment attaches the statements of other organizations in Finnish.

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