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2021-09-03 Case number:
NV-06680-21

Ministry of the Environment
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Notification pursuant to Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the plans for graphite mining at Niska South, Niska North and Nunasvaara North in Kiruna municipal, Norrbotten County.

According to article 3 point 1 of the Espoo Convention, affected countries shall be notified and consulted on projects that are likely to cause transboundary environmental impacts. As a party of origin, Sweden hereby notifies Finland regarding the plans for graphite mining at the Niska and Nunasvaara mine.

Information on the project

The developer, Talga Resources Ltd intends to apply for a processing concession in accordance with the Minerals Act (1991: 45) for mining of the graphite deposits Niska South, Niska North and Nunasvaara North. The deposits are located just north of Talga's Nunasvaara South graphite deposit. Mining is proposed to be underground, which leads to reduced disturbances on the land surface and for existing land use in the area, including reindeer husbandry.

Future impact assessments and associated documentation will be common to the three applications. Further details regarding the legal framework of the applications for the proposed project are described in the attached consultation document under chapter 1.1.

The graphite deposits in the Niska graphite project are located approximately 10 km west of Vittangi in Kiruna municipality.

The main components of the planned mining operations are mining of graphite ore in an underground mine, storage and backfilling for waste rock and

enrichment sand, enrichment of ore and basins and facilities for purification of water.

Attached to this notification is the consultation document both in Swedish and Finnish which aims to give an overview of the planned operations related to location, scope and conceptual design including an expectation of environmental impacts. Submitted comments will be considered in the preparation of the environmental impact assessment.

Participating in the transboundary EIA-procedure

Referring to Article 3.3 of the Espoo Convention, Sweden kindly asks Finland to respond **no later than the 11th of October 2021** at the latest and

1. acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
2. indicate, whether your country 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 country.

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

registrator@naturvardsverket.se Please indicate Case number NV-06680-21 and “Niska” in your answer.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Karolina Ardesjö-Lundén
Head of Unit

Richard Kristoffersson
Point of Contact, Espoo Convention

Attachments

Samrådsunderlag (Swedish)

Consultation document (Finnish)

Cc.

The Ministry of the Environment, Emma Sjöberg

Mannheimer Swartling, Felicia Ullerstam, Helles Stoytcheva