



Espoo Convention Point of Contact
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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) for the planned 400 kV powerline between Messaure and Keminmaa, Sweden

Finland has received a notification from Sweden concerning the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of planned 400 kV powerline between Messaure and Keminmaa. The notification was made in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention. Included in the notification was an EIA scoping document and other information.

Ministry of the Environment gave the opportunity for the public and the authorities to comment on the material from 14 April to 8 May 2020. The material was displayed on the internet of Ministry of the Environment and the Ylitornio municipality.

Thirteen answers were received in Finland from authorities, companies and private persons. A brief summary of comments received is given below, still the answers should be viewed as a whole by Sweden and the developer. The given comments are enclosed to this letter. The comments should be taken into account in the EIA.

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment in Lapland. Finland should participate in the EIA. The impacts of the connecting powerline are focused on the border crossing between Finland and Sweden. The project is tightly connected with the Fingrid powerline project between Keminmaa-Tornionjoki in Finland, so the project clearly has transboundary impacts. The alternative study with two options is alike with the Finnish part of the powerline. The scoping document has identified the transboundary impacts of the project.

Regional Council of Lapland. Finland should take part in the EIA. The powerline's alignment is on the West Lapland's regional plan. The planned powerline crosses the Tornionjoki river in an area that is pointed out to be an important area for cultural environment and landscape (ma 6098) in the regional plan. It is regulated that the planning must secure the values significant to cultural history and landscape. This is also stated in the Finnish national land use guidelines. The Tornionjoki valley is a nationally valuable landscape. The EIA must address such alignments and alternatives that the border crossing does not cause adverse impact to the landscape values, land ownership and housing.

Finnish Heritage Agency. Finland needs to take part in the EIA.

Tornionlaakso museum. Finland needs to take part in the EIA. Project has adverse impacts on landscape and cultural environment and they focus on the nationally valuable landscape and nationally significant built cultural environment of the Tornionjoki valley. For preserving harmonious landscapes one should prefer alignments that are connected with the existing powerline and therefore the crossing at Vuonnonkoski should be preferred.

Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK). The powerline does not cause significant magnetic fields in Finland from the radiation safety point of view. There is no need for Finland to participate into that part of the Swedish EIA.

Regional State Administrative Agency in Lapland. Finland's participation is not necessary because the Finnish part of the powerline (Keminmaa-Tornionjoki) is assessed in an EIA in Finland.

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment in Pohjois-Pohjanmaa. The powerline in question is not within area of responsibility of the Centre and therefore it does not see a need to participate into the EIA.

Reindeer Herders' Association. Finland should take part in the EIA as the project may have significant impacts in Finland. Project's impacts on reindeer and reindeer herding need to be assessed. Lohijärvi reindeer herders' association must be included into the assessment. In addition the project has likely significant impacts on natural environments and wellbeing.

Private persons. Finland should participate into the EIA. Another crossing over the Tornio river cannot be build into the same landowner's land at Vuonnonkoski as even the existing impacts and restrictions are seen significant. The developer must find a new place for crossing the border river.

Fingrid Oyj. Fingrid and Svenska Krafnät are cooperating on the projects in Finland and in Sweden. Finding a feasible crossing point, technical measures and assessing the overall impacts of the project is done by mutual consultation.

The Finnish Defence Forces, Finnish Meteorological Institute and Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) had no comments.

Based on the received comments, and reflecting its own views, the Ministry of the Environment states that Finland will participate in the EIA of the project.

The powerline from Finland to Sweden consists of three parts, Pyhänselkä-Keminmaa and Keminmaa-Tornionjoki in Finland and Tornionjoki-Messaure (the project is named Messaure-Keminmaa) in Sweden. The crossing point between Finland and Sweden is dealt both in the Finnish EIA Keminmaa-Tornionjoki and in the Swedish EIA Tornionjoki-Messaure but not as a one unified assessment. The Finnish EIA is almost ended and the Swedish EIA has just started. As the selection of the crossing point has the most significant transboundary impact for Finland and for Sweden, the crossing point with its different alternatives should have been dealt with in one assessment. A consultation with a broader audience would have built credibility and been a benefit for the planning. The chosen alternatives may be the most feasible at the end but the Swedish EIA documentation must include a clear and credible justification of the

screening procedure of the crossing point and its alternatives. The Messaure-(Tornionjoki) Keminmaa EIA should also include an overall assessment of the impacts of the crossing on landscape, cultural environment, land ownership, housing and wellbeing within the Tornionjoki valley on the Finnish side.

Permanent Secretary

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Enclosure

Statements and opinions given in Finland (In Finnish)