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2022-10-05 Case number:
NV-07861-22

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 a planned offshore wind farm “Baltic Offshore Epsilon” in Sweden's exclusive economic zone

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 of the plans for development of the offshore windfarm “Baltic Offshore Epsilon” in the Baltic Sea.

Information on the project

The developer, Njordr Offshore Wind AB, intends to apply for a permit under the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone Act (SFS 1992:1140) and the Swedish Continental Shelf Act (SFS 1966:314) to construct the so called “Baltic Offshore Epsilon” wind power plant within Sweden's Exclusive Economic Zone [SEZ]. The project area is estimated to be 678 square kilometers and consists of open sea located approximately 31 kilometers south-west of Gotska Sandön, 67 kilometers to Långviksskär, 60 kilometers off Fårö and 94 kilometers from Nåttarö. The developer has indicated that the “Baltic Offshore Epsilon” is estimated to include 184 wind turbines at most, with a maximum height of 330 meters.

As such, the proposed wind farm is expected to have a significant environmental impact and scoping consultations must therefore be held. Attached consultation document forms the basis for the consultation process and will be followed by an Environmental Impact Assessment [EIA]. The consultation document contains an example of the layout of the wind power plant, i.e., how the placement of the wind turbines within the project area could look.

The construction and operation of wind turbines and associated projects in the Swedish EEZ, requires a permit from the Swedish Government in accordance with the Swedish EEZ Act (SFS 1992:1140). Government approval is also required by law of the continental shelf act (SFS 1966:314) to be able to lay cables on the continental shelf, including both internal cables within the wind farm and connection to the shore. The application for a permit for laying marine cable will be submitted separately.

Comments received during the consultation process will be compiled and included in a consultation report. The consultation report is a basis for the EIA and is to be added as an attachment when the applications are submitted.

Participating in the transboundary EIA-procedure

Referring to Article 3.3 of the Espoo Convention, Sweden kindly asks the receiving countries of this notification to respond **no later than the 10th of November 2022** 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 received from the public in your country.

Kindly send the answer to this notification by e-mail to:
registrator@naturvardsverket.se indicating Case number NV-07861-22 and “Baltic Offshore Epsilon”.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

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Head of Unit

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Point of Contact, Espoo Convention

Attachments
Consultation document (Swedish and Finnish)

Cc
The Ministry of the Environment, Emma Sjöberg