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Case number:
NV-08204-22

To point of contact in:

Denmark
Poland
Germany
Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
Finland

Notification pursuant to Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding a planned offshore wind farm “Södra Victoria” in Sweden's economic zone [SEZ]

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 your state regarding the plans for the offshore windfarm “Södra Victoria” in the Baltic Sea.

Background

The developer, RWE Renewables Sweden AB, formerly E.ON Wind Sweden AB, applied for a permit under the Swedish Economic Zone Act (1992:1140) to construct and operate a wind farm at Södra Midsjöbanken in 2012. Transboundary consultations in accordance with the Espoo-convention was also carried out in the process. The Swedish Government announced in a letter dated 2019 that RWE's application for a permit under the Swedish Economic Zone Act (1992:1140) had to be supplemented with a permit under Chapter 7, Section 28a of the Environmental Code, known as a Natura 2000-permit. A notification and transboundary consultations regarding the Natura 2000 application were conducted in 2020.

In consultation responses concerning the developer's application for the Natura 2000 permit, a permit under the Swedish Economic Zone Act (1992:1140), objections were raised by authorities and experts against locating the facility at the Södra Midsjöbanken offshore reef. The developer has subsequently carried out further studies of the conditions in the area with the goal to enable an optimal location for the current project, the “Södra Victoria” wind farm. Considering the conservation assets of the Natura 2000 area, including birds, the proposed wind farm has been located to the west of the Södra

Midsjöbanken offshore bank instead of in the shallows, as in the application for a permit in 2012.

Now the developer has initiated consultations regarding a new permit under the Swedish Economic Zone Act (1992:1140), and therefore consultation in accordance with the Espoo-convention are needed once more.

Information on the project

The now planned Södra Victoria wind farm is located in the south-eastern Baltic Sea, about 70 km south-east of the southern tip of the island Öland, about 90 km north-west of the northernmost coast of Poland and about 130 km east of Bornholm. The area of the planned wind farm is 174 km². The depth varies between about 25 and 36 meters. The wind farm is located outside Sweden's territorial boundary and within the Swedish Economic Zone [SEZ]. Permits for the construction and operation of facilities within Sweden's exclusive economic zone will be examined under the Swedish Economic Zone Act (1992:1140). Permits are issued by the Government (Ministry of the Environment).

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 requests that potential comments are to be sent to the Agency, **no later than the 28th of October 2022** at the latest;

1. acknowledging the receipt of the notification,
2. indicating, whether your country intends to participate in the EIA procedure
3. providing comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project on your territory.
4. submitting 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-08204-22 and "Södra Victoria" in your answer.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures.

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Elin Andersen
Deputy Head of Unit

Richard Kristoffersson
Point of Contact, Espoo Convention

Attachments

Consultation document

Cc.

The Ministry of the Environment, Emma Sjöberg
RWE Renewables Sweden AB, Lena Blomqvist