



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment

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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 Davvi wind power plant in Finnmark county and connecting transmission lines

Finland has received a notification on 28 August, 2017 from Norway concerning the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the planned Davvi wind power plant in Finnmark county and connecting transmission lines to the Norwegian and Finnish grids. The area planned for the wind power plant covers 78 square kilometres in the municipalities of Lebesby and Tana. The overall number of wind turbines is planned to be 100-267 and the total power maximum 800 megawatts (individual turbine 3-8 megawatts). The developer is Grenselandet AS and the cooperative partner on the Finnish side would be St1. The notification has been in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention. Included in the notification was a proposal for the assessment programme (terms of reference for the EIA).

Finland acknowledges the receipt of the notification. The original deadline for answering the notification was 6 November, 2017. The developer had provided the material in Finnish but it needed to be translated into Northern Sámi. Finland and Norway agreed bilaterally that Finland can answer the notification and deliver its comments on the assessment programme on 19 January, 2018.

Ministry of the Environment provided the public and authorities an opportunity to comment the material from 1 November to 8 December, 2017. The material was displayed in Utsjoki municipality and in the internet. Public information meeting was arranged in Utsjoki on 8 November, 2017.

Statements and opinions were received from Utsjoki municipality, Regional Council of Lapland, Metsähallitus (state-owned enterprise responsible for the management state-owned land and water areas), Norsk-Finsk grensevassdragskommisjon, Lapland's Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Finnish Sámi Parliament, Sámi Museum Siida, Kevo Subarctic Research Institute -University of Turku, Reindeer Herders' Association, The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, Tenon kiinteistönomistajat ry (Property owners of Teno), Fingrid Oyj and 14 private persons.

Participation to the Norwegian EIA

Based on the comments received and reflecting its own views the Ministry of the Environment states that Finland wishes to participate into the EIA of the wind power plant and connecting transmission lines. The project is likely to cause significant adverse transboundary environmental impacts in Finland on landscape, biodiversity, tourism, Sámi culture and reindeer herding.

Planning of the power-distribution network

The developer has proposed two alternative power line options for entering Finland. It is anticipated that both powerline alternatives are problematic and would have adverse environmental impacts. Therefore also new alternatives for power line border-crossing points should be investigated. The planning of such cross border power

lines should be done jointly and also the EIA should be a joint procedure. This is also pointed out in the Sámi museum's, Metsähallitus's and in other statements.

Fingrid Oyj, which is the Finnish public limited liability company responsible e.g. for planning and developing the Finnish electricity transmission system, states that connecting such a big project into the Finnish grid in Lapland would need extensive strengthening of the transmission system in Northern Finland and even further south. Grid connections will be studied as part of the ongoing regional land use plan for Northern Lapland. Norway was notified on 4 July, 2017 on the initiation of the preparation of this regional land use plan. As the project has implications on the energy sector in Finland, additional information on this issue will be given later.

Transboundary impacts to be studied

The assessment programme concentrated mainly on impact studies in Norway. Finland points out that the assessment programme must be supplemented by project's relevant transboundary impacts on Finland. Also efficient mitigation measures of transboundary impacts have to be included into the EIA. The statements and opinions given, which are attached to this statement, contain the view of the Finnish authorities, other stakeholders and private persons on the scope of the transboundary assessment and they need to be taken into account. A summary of the feedback is provided in English.

Participation of the Finnish public and authorities during the EIA

The Finnish public and authorities have to be kept informed of the developments of the project and have to have a possibility to participate in the impact assessment. Meetings or workshops could be arranged on the Finnish side during the EIA. It is important to include the Sámi in to the impact assessment. Finnish Sámi Parliament and the Utsjoki municipality urges to adopt the Akwé: kon guidelines in the impact assessment (done under the Convention on Biological Diversity Article 8 (j)) of the project.

On behalf of Permanent Secretary
Director General



Helena Säteri

Environment Counsellor



Tarja Haaranen

Attachments

1. Statements and opinions from Finland
2. Summary of statements and opinions in English

cc:

The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate