



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 changes in waterway, Leirpollen municipality of Tana

Finland has received notification on 4 April, 2017 from Norway concerning the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the planned changes in waterway Leirpollen, in the municipality of Tana. The notification was made in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention. Included to the notification was a proposal for the Project plan and scope of the EIA.

The waterway project is the first Espoo Convention notification from Norway to Finland. In the notification letter it is stated that the Norwegian Coastal Administration in agreement with the municipality of Tana has sent the notification to the municipality of Utsjoki in Finland according to the Norwegian regulations on EIA. In addition it is stated that that in agreement with the municipality of Utsjoki, all documents are in Norwegian only. Additionally the notification has been addressed to Finland's Ministry of the Environment.

Finland acknowledges the receipt of the notification. Additionally Finland has been in direct contact with the Norwegian Environmental Agency and Norwegian Coastal Administration to clarify the bilateral practices between Parties. In these contacts and also by this letter Finland wishes to point out that the Ministry of the Environment is the competent authority on Espoo Convention matters (Point of Contact for notification). Therefore the matters connected to specific activities with transboundary environmental impact need to be agreed with the Ministry. These matters would include e.g. the needed translations.

In order to provide equal opportunity for the public and authorities to comment on the Project plan document and the scope of the EIA the material needs to be provided in Finnish. Additionally Finland will provide the relevant material in the Sami language spoken in the area and therefore time must be reserved for the translation. As the material was provided first only in Norwegian and the translation into Sami could only begin when proper Finnish version was at hand, Finland must request prolongation of providing an answer to the scope of the EIA until 9 June, 2017.

At this point, however, Finland is able to state that it will participate in the EIA of the Leirpollen waterway.

Permanent Secretary


Hannele Pokka

Ministerial Adviser


Seija Rantakallio

cc:

Norwegian Coastal Administration
Utsjoki municipality