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Notice in accord with the Espoo Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context of the "Windanker" offshore wind farm northeast of Rügen, Germany.

Through a June 25, 2013 referral for consideration, the Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) has received the cited case for comment. In view of this, SGU wishes to convey the following:

Case

German Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie (BSH) has notified Sweden that the company Iberdrola Renovables Offshore Deutschland Zwei GmbH has prepared a consultation document in advance of presentation of an environmental impact assessment for the "Windanker" wind farm northeast of Rügen in west Adlergrund. The area is located adjacent to the border of the Danish economic zone on the northwest flank of the shallow ridge that extends from the Rügen area in Germany to the Danish island of Bornholm. The northernmost point of the planned facility will be about 4 kilometres from the border of the Swedish economic zone. According to the plan, the facility will consist of 60 wind turbines, a transformer station and the facility's internal connecting cables. A network operator is responsible for the delivery connection to land, which is why this is not included in the project's report. The height, rotor diameter and type of foundation have not yet been determined. Power output of 5-8 MW and a maximum height of 120 metres have been mentioned. The water depth within the approximately 30-square-kilometre facility area is 41-45 metres. The bottom material probably is made up primarily of silty gyttja clays.

SGU's determination

In SGU's judgement, work on the planned facility, especially the laying of the facility's internal connecting cables in the fine gyttja sediment in the area's depths, will cause considerable water turbidity/dissemination of suspended material. The material in question is young, probably in part recent clay and gyttja sediment, which is why the activity probably will involve stirring up anthropogenic environmental toxins that now are bound in the sediment.

Since the saline bottom water from the North Sea mainly reaches the deeper basins in the Baltic Sea via Bornholm Gatt after passage through the Arkona basin, an increment of fine,

suspended material from the area of the facility, including environmental toxins, could be expected in the depository bottoms of the Swedish economic zone. Therefore, an environmental impact assessment for the project should contain a disclosure of the content of environmental toxins in the sediment specifically for the area of the facility. Both the surface layer (0 - 2 centimetres) and at least two deeper layers – for example, 28 - 30 centimetres and 58 - 60 centimetres – should be disclosed with respect to heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH), *p*-phenylenediamine (PPD) and Tributyltin (TBT). Further, model calculations of sediment dissemination should be conducted and disclosed in the environmental impact assessment.

The decision on this case has been made by the undersigned chief of staff.

Those participating in the final handling of the case are 1st state geologist Anders Elhammer and legal counsel Helena Kjellson, who also submitted the report.

Per Klingbjer

Helena Kjellson