



SWEDISH  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
AGENCY

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**Sweden's response to the notification in accordance with Article 10 of the protocol for strategic environmental assessment to the Espoo convention regarding the local detailed plan for Koivuluoto "Arctio" in Tornio, Finland SYKE/2024/1393**

Sweden was notified by Finland regarding a local detailed plan for Koivuluoto "Arctio" in Tornio Finland, since the implementation of the plan may have an adverse environmental impact on Sweden. The area is located approximately 6,5 kilometres from Haparanda city and less than 3 kilometres from the Swedish border. The planned land use is industry and energy including a Small Modular Reactor (SMR).

Sweden acknowledge the receipt of the notification and informs that Sweden will participate in the land use planning procedure. Views and comments on the plan and the assessment is presented below.

**Consultation in Sweden**

The document for consultation has been circulated for consideration to Swedish central government agencies, the relevant county administrative board in Norrbotten county and the municipalities that borders Tornio municipality, organizations and the public during the period from 23<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 until 31<sup>th</sup> of March 2025. The documents for consultation were also published on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

SEPA is the authority responsible for fulfilling the obligations following from, inter alia, Article 10 in the protocol (SEA) to the Espoo convention. However, SEPA does not evaluate the consultations received with a view to presenting an overall Swedish position. For a comprehensive view of the comments received during the consultations, we refer to the enclosed statements.

**Comments received**

Statements have been received from the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Energy Agency, Sámédiggi, the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, the Swedish Maritime Administration, the Swedish Transport Administration, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, the County

Administrative Board in Norrbotten, the Finnish – Swedish Transboundary River Commission and Haparanda city.

**The Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish Transport Administration** stated no comments.

*Sámediggi* states that since the area is less than 3 km from the Swedish border the reindeer husbandry of the Liehittäjä Sami may be affected by the activities. Reindeer are disturbed by various types of infrastructure and human activity at a distance of up to 12 km. The Sami Parliament states that there is a need for an environmental impact assessment for reindeer husbandry and that Sweden needs to participate in the environmental assessment process. In addition, they refers to guidelines on consultation and the preparation of an environmental impact assessment in relation to Sami land use, see full statement.

**The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management** consider that the implementation of the plan may have an impact in Sweden and especially fisk, area for national interest for fishing and protected nature areas. The extent of the impact depends on, among other things, what activities will be established and which mitigation measures that will be taken to limit the impact. Cumulative impacts have to be assessed and described in the SEA, see attachment for further information

**The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency** notes that the proposal allows the use of industry that handling hazardous substances and small-scale modular nuclear power. However, there is no description in the about possible consequences for Sweden as a result of accidents in these industrial activities and the documentation needs to be supplemented in this respect.

**The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning** shares the preliminary assessment that the plan may have an impact on Swedish interests and that transboundary consequences are presented in the further planning process.

**The Swedish Maritime Administration** considers that the plan has no negative impact on Swedish maritime transports and interests or harbours.

**The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority** considers that the plan may have a transboundary impact on Swedish interests and the environment. The authority would like to co-operate with Finland on these issues and refers to an agreement between Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. See details in the attached statement.

**The County Administrative Board in Norrbotten** states that the plan and planned activities may affect Sweden. They list aspects that must be assessed in the environmental assessments such as, among others, the impact on the landscape, impact on species and their habitats on land and in water and how the area and the planned activities are impacted by the climate change. In addition, a list with risks, which need to be considered and assessed, is presented in the full statement.

**Haparanda city** is generally positive towards plans and projects that enables economic development in Torne River valley. In this case they found it hard to fully assess the consequences of establish an SMR since the technology is new. Haparanda emphasises that it's of particular importance that the motives behind such a development and its significance in a wider context is described. Haparanda consider that they may be affected, health and environment, during operation but also in case of an accident. Risks of accidents must be considered, and an organisation has to be in place, see more information in the attached statement.

### **Conclusion and summary**

Based on the comments received, the plan and its implementation, have potential impact on Swedish interests, environment and health. Sweden therefor intends to participate in the further planning procedure and leave comments on the strategic environmental assessment. In the next stage SEPA will send the consultation material to a broader circle, especially if the plan for an SMR remains.

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*The decision has been made electronically and there is no need for signatures.*

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Nanna Wikholm

Head of Unit

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Point of Contact for the Espoo protocol

### **Attachment with comments from:**

Sámediggi

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning

Swedish Energy Agency

Swedish Maritime Administration

Swedish Radiation Safety Authority

County Administrative Board in Norrbotten

Haparanda city

### **Copy**

Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Eleonora Rönström and Sandra Jalalian  
Finnish Environmental Institute, Ulla Helminen and Wilma Poutanen