



SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

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Sweden's response to the notification in accordance with Article 3 in the Espoo convention and Article 10 of the protocol for strategic environmental assessment to the Espoo convention regarding the wind power farm, Harjunkturpi, Finland SYKE/2024/2180 and SYKE/2024/2205

Sweden, via the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), was notified by Finland's point of contact, the Finnish Environmental Institute, regarding the wind power project Harjunkturpi and the local master plan for the wind power farm. The notifications were in accordance with article 3 in the convention and article 10 in the protocol. This letter includes responses on both notifications.

The project area for Harjunkturpi is located approximately 14 kilometres from the Swedish border, 15.5 kilometres southeast of the built-up area of Swedish Övertorneå and about 15 kilometres northeast of the village of Hedenäse

Sweden acknowledge the receipt of the notification and informs that Sweden will participate in the land use planning procedure and the project and their environmental assessment procedures. Views and comments on the plan and the project are 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 3th of February 2025 until 7th of April 2025. The documents for consultation were also published on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

A public hearing was held in Tornio on the 20th of March. It was also possible to attend on-line. SEPA had announced the public hearing in the local papers on the websites of Haparanda and Övertorneå municipalities and the SEPA website.

SEPA is the authority responsible for fulfilling the obligations following from, inter alia, Article 3 in the Espoo convention and 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 Energy Agency, Sámediggi, the Swedish Transport Administration, the National Heritage Board, the County Administrative Board in Norrbotten, the Finnish – Swedish Transboundary River Commission, BirdLife Sverige, Övertorneå municipality. Korpikylä hembygdsförening, Hulkoffgården AB and two letters from the public.

The Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish Transport Administration stated no comments. However the Energy Agency would like to stay informed regarding the project and the plan.

Sámediggi informs that on the Swedish side of the border, the Korju and Liehittäjä reindeer grazing areas are under concession and there are several areas designated as national interests for reindeer husbandry in the form of core areas and migration routes. Sámediggi present a list regarding Sami consultation and influence to be taken into account. In addition, a list with aspects to be assessed and presented in the impact assessments are given, see statement for details.

The National Heritage Board states that the plan and project may have a significant impact on Swedish values. In their statement they raise the need of an analysis of cultural heritage contextual values and that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the UNESCO world heritage area “Struves meridianbåge” might be required. Further information is given in the attached statement.

The County Administrative Board in Norrbotten raise the following issues, cumulative impacts, a significant environmental impact on designated cultural heritage values and the landscape on the Swedish side of the border, the need of visualisation / animation and that a separate Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) may be required for the Struve Meridian Arch World Heritage Site. Consequences of the cumulative impact of the total number of planned and existing wind farms in the area and what it leads to, need to be described in the SEA and EIA, see statement.

Finnish – Swedish Transboundary River Commission states that in the environmental assessments the landscape, the specificities of the Torne Valley and the different scales of the landscape, from small-scale, old village settlements to open, wider views, and describe the significance of the impact in relation to different types of landscape components, especially with regard to cumulative effects etc. Information on important photo points are given. The nature and the natural conditions, the length of the day/night has to be taken into account, Further details are given and the attached statement must be read in full text.

Övertorneå municipality is generally positive to projects with renewable energy such as wind power, but the development should not affect other important values. The municipality states that the planned wind power plan would have a significant impact on the landscape on the Swedish side of

the river. Övertorneå refer to the European Landscape Convention. They raise that the wind power plants, and their warning lights would have negative effects on, among other things, the population and their living conditions, tourism and tourism industry. The tourism is focused on, inter alia, experience the unexploited landscape and dark sky. The municipality present the values in the river valley, information from studies etc. and their statement has to be read in full text.

BirdLife Sverige states that the planned wind power plants may have a transboundary negative impact on birds, migrating birds and their habitat and require that cumulative effects must be considered. BirdLife requires that cumulative effects on migrating birds should be investigated, and the result taken into account. Further information regarding negative impacts, how to conduct a investigation etc. are given in the full statement.

Hulkoffgården AB, Korpikylä hembygdsförening and one letter from the public states the negative impact on the landscape, the living conditions and the environment with all the planned wind power plans in the Finnish Tornio River valley. The landscape will be dominated by the industrial wind power plants and cause disturbance from noise, movements, and the lights. See full statement for more information.

The public, two letters have been received by the SEPA. One is summarised above. The other state that the impact on tourism must be assessed, and information can be available from representatives from big sightseeing sites such as Kukkolaforsen etc. In addition, the risk for decreasing population and the more negative impact in Sweden from the plant's warning lights.

Conclusion and summary

Based on the comments received, the project and the plan and its implementation, will have significant transboundary impact on Swedish interests, environment and health. Sweden therefor intends to participate in the further environmental assessment procedures both for the project and for the local municipal plan.

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

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Nanna Wikholm

Head of Unit

Åsa Blomster

Point of Contact for the Espoo protocol

Attachment with comments from:

The Sámediggi

The National Heritage Board

The County Administrative Board in Norrbotten

Övertorneå municipality

BirdLife Sverige

Hulkoffgården AB

Korpikylä hembygdsförening

The public (2 letters)

Copy

Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Eleonora Rönström and Sandra Jalalian

Finnish Environmental Institute, Ulla Helminen and Wilma Poutanen.