



SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

2025-05-16

Åsa Blomster
Phone: +46 (0) 10-698 14 51
asa.blomster
@swedishepa.se

Case number
NV-25-004859

Finnish Environmental Institute
transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi
kirjaamo@syke.fi

Sweden's response to the notification in accordance with Article 10 of the protocol for strategic environmental assessment to the Espoo convention regarding the master plan for wind power plants in Teikovaara-Saarivara, Finland, SYKE/2025/300

Sweden has been notified by Finland regarding the component master plan for wind power plants in Teikovaara-Saarivara in Pello municipality in Finland. This response refers to the notification in accordance with Article 10 in the protocol to the Espoo convention.

Sweden acknowledge that the notification has been received and inform that Sweden would like to take part in the further environmental assessment. 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 Pello municipality, organizations and the public during the period from 4th of March 2025 until 9th of May 2025.

A public hearing was held in Sweden in Pello in Övertorneå municipality on 11th of March. It was possible to attend the public hearing on-line. The Swedish EPA (SEPA) had announced the consultation and the public hearing in relevant daily papers. The documents for consultation were also published on the website of SEPA.

The Swedish EPA 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 Energy Agency, the Swedish National Heritage Board, the Sami Parliament/Samidiggi, the county administrative board of Norrbotten, the Finnish – Swedish Transboundary River

Commission, Övertorneå municipality, Pajala municipality, the organization BirdLife and one letter from the public.

The Swedish Energy Agency had no comments.

A brief summary of the statements with comments is provided below, please note that the summary is written by the Swedish EPA and not the referred body. All statements are attached and must be read in full text.

The Swedish National Heritage Board states that the plan and project have an impact on cultural heritages and sites in Sweden. The board intends to take part in further consultations.

The Finnish – Swedish Transboundary River Commission states that the plan and project have a transboundary impact on the landscape and it's characteristics. This is significant since the project is located so close to the river and the border. The commission summarises what should be considered such as the different scales, the impact on different types of landscape, the size of the impacted area for example. The impact on living conditions and recreation and tourism must be described especially the possibility to experience silence and darkness. See full statement for a full description.

Sámediggi states that on the Swedish side of the border, the Korju and Liehittäjä reindeer herding communities have reindeer grazing lands. There are several areas designated as national interests for reindeer husbandry in the form of core areas and migration routes. Significant impacts on the conduct of reindeer husbandry and on the national interest for reindeer husbandry cannot be ruled out. The Sami Parliament states the importance of dialogue and consultation with the Sami people and provide information regarding how to include etc. They also provide a list what must be included in the environmental impact assessment and considered. See full statement for more information.

The County Administrative Board in Norrbotten states that the implementation of the plan may have a transboundary impact on Sweden and among other things the cultural heritage sites, nature values and reindeer and Sami interests. For example, for cultural heritage, the areas of national interest and the UNESCO world heritage site "Struves meridianbåge" as well as areas of regional interests have to be considered and assessed in the impact assessment. The consequences for the Nature 2000-area must be assessed and impact on migrating birds and bats must be considered and assessed. Korju Sami village is the closest Sami village on the Swedish side of the border. The environmental impact assessment should describe how reindeer husbandry may be affected within Korju Sami village and consultation should be held with the Sami village. See full statement for further details.

Övertorneå municipality considers that the plan for the Teikovaara-Saarivara wind farm will have major consequences for Sweden and therefore it is important that Swedish authorities and municipalities continues to be involved in the environmental impact assessment. The municipality of Övertorneå also maintains its earlier expressed during the consultation meeting held on 2025-03-11. The municipality states that the planned Teikovaara-Saarivara wind farm would change the landscape in a very tangible way, in a large area which, on the Swedish side, is an area of national interest for cultural heritage, outdoor life and nature conservation. The municipality assesses that the Teikovaara-Saarivara wind farm has a major negative impact on residents, businesses and the municipality's own development strategies. The municipality has an extensive

statement which has to be read in full text. They raise issues regarding among other things cumulative impacts have to be assessed and considered, the requirements according to European Landscape Convention, the nuisance from the warning lights and negative impact on tourism and living conditions etc. The municipality has their decision to not allow wind power plants in the Torne river valley. The statement lists many aspects that have to be considered, and it has to be read in full text.

Pajala municipality states that in general consequences on Sami interests and reindeers and property owners have to be further described and assessed. Pajala municipality also states that there are further transboundary impacts than listed in the present impact assessment. The plan may have a negative impact on groundwater in Sweden, surface water and water quality, economical aspects and financial compensation for property owner, the landscape and the UNESCO world heritage site “Struves medridianbåge” and the landscape in general, Sami interest and reindeers and how they can be impacted by noise and warning lights. See the full statement for more information.

BirdLife Sverige acknowledge that the plan and project can cause significant transboundary impacts. BirdLife consider that is necessary that cumulative effects for the bort migration in the region are considered. The project owner should be responsible to survey migrating birds and ensure mitigation measures when required. They give examples of what have to be surveyed and mitigation measures etc in the full statement.

The public, one letter has been received. The letter contains information regarding areas for outdoor which were missing in the presentation. There are many valuable outdoor areas in Pello in Sweden for cross country skiing, recreation, berry and mushroom picking, hiking paths etc. Other issues raised are impact on animals and health, nuisance from noise, See full statement for more details.

Conclusion and summary

Based on the comments received Sweden intends to participate in the further planning procedure and leave comments on the environmental assessment and the plan since the plan likely have transboundary impact on Sweden. A list of aspects that have to be considered and assessed have been received during the consultation as well as the importance to assess cumulative impacts from other plans and projects.

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 Finnish – Swedish Transboundary River Commission

The County Administrative Board in Norrbotten

Övertorneå municipality

Pajala municipality

BirdLife Sverige

The public (1 letter)

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Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Eleonora Rönström and Sandra Jalalian

Finnish Environmental Institute, Ulla Helminen and Wilma Poutanen.

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Ministry of Climate and Enterprise Eleonora Rönström and Sandra Jalalian

Finnish Environmental Institute, Ulla Helminen and Hanne Rajanen