



SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

2023-05-22

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Case number:
NV-09464-21

The Swedish reply to the notification pursuant Art. 4 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the planned offshore wind farm “Klaipeda” in the Lithuanian marine territory of the Baltic Sea

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania notified the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) on the 5th of April 2023 about the planned development and operation of the offshore wind farm (OWF) *Klaipeda*, located in the Lithuanian marine territory of the Baltic Sea.

The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania states that OWF *Klaipeda* will include 43 – 87 wind turbines with a maximum height of 300 meters and an individual effect of 20 MW. The estimated capacity of the entire project is set to be 700 MW.

Consultation in Sweden

SEPA is the responsible authority for submitting and receiving notifications and otherwise fulfilling obligations for environmental impact assessments in a transboundary context (Espoo Convention) in Sweden, according to the Environmental Assessment Regulation (SFS 2017:966). The notification and the consultation documents have been circulated for consideration by SEPA to four relevant agencies that previously expressed their interest in taking part of the consultation when receiving the notification on the 10th of December 2021.

The consultation period lasted from the April 6, 2023 until May 17, 2023.

Remarks received during the consultation

A summary of the statements received is included below, please note that the summary is written on behalf of the SEPA and not for the body to which the proposal is referred for consideration.

All statements are enclosed in full to this letter.

BirdLife Sweden rejects the proposed project in full due to the close vicinity to adjacent Natura 2000 area and the risk of decreasing the density of the protected species of birds in said area. *BirdLife Sweden* further states that “*Proceedings of any project facing such probability, even if placed outside of the Natura 2000 site, is a clear breach of the existing nature legislation of the European Union. The European Court of Justice has declared that even a risk of such effects*

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*activates the prohibitive rules of the nature directives.”. To mitigate for and potentially avoid these risks, *BirdLife Sweden* proposes that the project area for OWF *Klaipeda* is adjusted to a location further west where significant effects on wintering velvet scoters can be avoided.*

To conclude, *BirdLife Sweden* also strongly recommends that the Lithuanian government and responsible authorities include obligatory measures for all future offshore windfarms – as well as for OWF *Klaipeda*, to install shut-down mechanisms that can be activated when large numbers of nocturnally migrating birds are registered passing through the wind farm area, as has already been done in the Netherlands.

The *Swedish Pelagic Federation (SPF)* makes several substantive comments regarding underwater noise and vibrations, electromagnetic fields, and cumulative effects. The federation also claims that the available knowledge on how fish stocks and the greater environment is impacted by various factors such as underwater noise, vibrations, shifts in currents or electromagnetic fields around high voltage cables are insufficient and that these factors and their respective cumulative impact needs to be investigated further.

The *Swedish Transport Administration* highlights the importance of taking maritime traffic routes and shipping conditions into consideration when establishing OWF in the region.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures.

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

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Head of Unit

Richard Kristoffersson
Point of Contact for the
Espoo Convention

Cc

Sandra Jalalian and Astrid Öfverholm at the Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise

Enclosed, statements made in Swedish by:

BirdLife Sweden
the Swedish Pelagic Federation (SPF)
the Swedish Transport Administration

