



SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

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NV-26-003000

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Swedish reply to the notification pursuant to Art. 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the planned Finnish hydrogen transmission network in Sea Lapland, Finland (SYKE/2025/1017)

The Finnish Environmental Institute notified the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) on the 1st of January 2026 about the planned development and operation of the planned Finnish hydrogen transmission network in Sea Lapland.

Finland has fulfilled their responsibility following from article 3 of the Espoo Convention by providing SEPA with a notification regarding the project.

Information on the planned project

Gasgrid Vetyverkot Oy plans to develop a national hydrogen transmission network extending from southern Finland to Tornio. This network constitutes Finland's contribution to the Nordic Hydrogen Route, a joint initiative between Gasgrid in Finland and Nordion Energi in Sweden. In 2024, the project was granted Projects of Common Interest (PCI) status by the European Union. On the Swedish side, the project area encompasses Haparanda, Luleå, Umeå, and Kiruna.

The Sea Lapland segment of the project within Finland covers the municipalities of Tornio, Keminmaa, Kemi, and Simo. The planned hydrogen transmission system will comprise of underground high-pressure carbon steel pipelines, along with block valve stations and pressure-reduction facilities equipped with scraper and measurement stations. The pipeline will be installed at a minimum depth of one metre in forested areas and 1.2 metres in agricultural land. The designated pipeline corridor will consist of a treeless zone with a total width of ten metres.

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 relevant government agencies, including but not limited to the County

Administrative Boards, municipalities as well as environmental organizations and affected public.

The consultation period lasted from 30th of January, until 27th of March 2026. During the Swedish consultation SEPA received replies from *the Geological Survey of Sweden, the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and the County Administrative board of Norrbotten*.

Remarks received during the consultation

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

The Geological Survey of Sweden has reviewed the referenced consultation documents. SGU does not see the need to further reviewing the consultation and refers instead to SGU's general guidelines for infrastructure, which are attached in their reply.

The Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency has reviewed the consultation, including the documentation provided by Finland. The Agency has no comments.

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management considers that the planned construction works may entail transboundary environmental impacts on the Baltic Sea's important stocks of migratory wild salmon and sea-migrating whitefish when work is carried out in and near the Torne River. They assess that following aspects should be included in the environmental impact assessment:

- The periods during which migratory salmon and whitefish are present in the affected areas of the Torne River
- The environmental impacts that the planned installation of a hydrogen pipeline under and in the vicinity of the Torne River water body may give rise to
- The potential effects on migratory salmon and whitefish stocks if the planned construction works are carried out during periods that are sensitive for the fish
- Proposed mitigation measures and temporal restrictions that may be applied to reduce impacts on these fish stocks

The County Administrative board of Norrbotten has chosen not to submit any substantive comments within the scope of this Espoo notification. Instead, the County Administrative Board refers to the comments previously submitted in the national consultation in Sweden. Their comments can be read in full in attached appendix:

– Statement on the scoping consultation regarding a new land-based hydrogen transmission pipeline between Haparanda and Boden, and between Boden and Skellefteå,

For full details of the statements received, please see attached.

SEPA hereby acknowledges having received the notification and based on received statements also inform Finland that Sweden intends to participate in the upcoming Espoo process.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures.

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Nanna Wikholm
Head of Unit

Richard Kristoffersson
Point of Contact for the
Espoo Convention

Cc:

The Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Bastian Ljunggren

Enclosed, statements from:

The Geological Survey of Sweden

The Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

The County Administrative board of Norrbotten including appendix