

Authority services

12 April 2024

SYKE/2023/392

Points of Contact for Notification

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Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the planned offshore wind farm project "Bothnia" in Finland's exclusive economic zone

According to Article 3(1) of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), the affected Parties must be notified of a proposed activity listed in Appendix I of the Espoo Convention that is likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact. Finland, as a Party of origin, hereby sends a notification regarding the planned offshore wind farm project "Bothnia". The planned activity is listed in Appendix I, paragraph 22. The notification is also sent in accordance with Article 7 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Finland on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

Information on the planned project

Ilmatar Offshore Ab is planning the Bothnia Wind Farm of up to 270 wind turbines in the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone in the Bothnian Sea in the Gulf of Bothnia. The total planned capacity of the project is about 4 gigawatts, the total height of the power plants will not exceed 400 metres and the project area will be about 1,173 km². The project consists of two separate areas: the Bothnia project area (approx. 685 km²) and the Bothnia West project area (approx. 488



km²). The electricity generated by the project will be transmitted via undersea cable lines to Finland and/or Sweden. In addition to the wind turbines and the internal and external electricity transmission within the project area, the project includes disposal areas for dredged material, the locations of which will be specified during the EIA procedure.

The project area is located more than 70 km from the Finnish coast and more than 90 km from the Swedish coast. The project area is located approximately 500 m from the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone. The water depth in the project area varies between approximately 40 and 120 m.

The project options assessed include four siting options for wind turbines in the offshore wind farm area and seven routing options for undersea cables. Some of the undersea cable route options include several alternative landing points. The non-implementation of the project will also be assessed.

The placement options vary in terms of maximum number of wind turbines (160–261 turbines), maximum height (total height 280–400 m), unit power (15–25 MW) and location of the wind turbines. The foundations of the power plants will be of the three-legged lattice type (so-called jacket).

Of the routing options for the undersea cables, two will come ashore in Sweden and the rest in Finland. The planned landing sites are located in the municipalities of Närpes, Kaskinen, Kristinestad, Eurajoki, Rauma and Pyhäranta in Finland and in the municipalities of Sundsvall and Hudiksvall in Sweden. Regarding the routing options, only the sections located in the Finnish EEZ, or territorial waters are considered in this EIA procedure.

The project may have transboundary impacts on the aquatic environment, fish, marine mammals, birds, nature conservation areas, fisheries, maritime traffic, and landscape.

The EIA procedure in Finland

The Act on Environment Impact Assessment Procedure (252/2017) and the Decree on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (277/2017) regulate the EIA procedure in Finland.

Participation in the EIA procedure

The public display of the EIA programme takes place in Finland from 16 April to 14 June 2024. Contracting Parties to the Espoo Convention have the right to participate in the EIA procedure in another country if a project under assessment may have adverse environmental impacts on that state. Please send the response by e-mail to the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute (kirjaamo@syke.fi) and transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi by **26 June 2024 at the latest** and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
- indicate whether your state intends to participate in the EIA procedure,
- provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the likely significant environmental impacts of the project affecting your state, and
- submit any comments you might receive from the public and authorities in your country.

Please indicate our reference number SYKE/2023/392 in your letter.



The full EIA programme is available at the following webpages:

www.ymparisto.fi/bothnia-merituuli-YVA (in Finnish) and
www.miljo.fi/bothnia-havsvindkraft-MKB (in Swedish).

More information

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This document has been electronically signed. The electronic signatures can be verified from the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute.

Appendices

Summary-in-Estonian-Ilmatar-Bothnia-EIA-programme
Summary-in-Norwegian-Ilmatar-Bothnia-EIA-programme
Summary-in-Swedish-Ilmatar-Bothnia-EIA-programme

For information

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Ministry of the Environment

