

Authority Services

19 June 2023

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To the Points of Contact in Norway and Sweden

Notification under Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) concerning the planned offshore wind farm project “Stormskär and Väderskär“

According to Article 3(1) of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), the affected Parties must be notified on a proposed activity listed in Appendix I that is likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact. Finland, as a Party of origin, hereby notifies Norway and Sweden on the planned offshore wind farm project “Stormskär and Väderskär”. The planned activity is listed in Appendix I, paragraph 22. According to the Act on Environment Impact Assessment (252/2017), the Finnish Environment Institute is the competent authority and responsible for information and consultation tasks under the Espoo Convention in Finland.

Information on the planned project

The project developer, Ilmatar Offshore AB, plans to apply for a permit to construct the wind farm in Stormskär and Väderskär in the territorial waters of Åland, Finland. The project area is located about 15 kilometres from the northern coast of Åland, about 45 kilometres from the Finnish coast and about 60 kilometres from the Swedish coast. The nearest residential areas are in the municipalities of Saltvik, Åland (about 11 kilometres) and Geta, Åland (about 15 kilometres). Various equipment such as transformer stations and an internal cable network are also planned to be installed on the wind farm site.

The scoping document presents two alternatives for the planned project, and a zero alternative, *i.e.*, a situation where the wind farm is not constructed. The wind farm is planned to consist of two project areas. The project area for Stormskär is planned to cover 474,5 km² and to consist of a maximum of 131 turbines with a capacity of 15 MW per turbine and a maximum height of 400 metres. The installed capacity of Stormskär is planned to cover 2 000 MW. The project area for Väderskär is planned to cover 96,2 km² and to consist of a maximum of 31 turbines with a capacity of 15 MW per turbine and a maximum height of 400 metres. The installed capacity of Väderskär is planned to cover 475 MW. The depth varies in the areas approximately 10-90 metres. The total planned capacity of the wind farm is around 2,5 GW.

The Åland Environment and Health Protection Authority (Ålands miljö- och hälsoskyddsmyndighet) has informed the Government of Åland (Ålands landskapsregering) that it assesses that the planned project may have transboundary environmental impacts on, *inter alia*, benthic flora and fauna, fish, marine mammals, birds, and landscape. The following changes to the environment have been identified in the scoping document: physical disturbance, suspended solids and sedimentation, airborne noise, underwater noise, shadowing



and glare, visual impacts, pollution and wind wake. The scoping document in Swedish is enclosed to this notification and it provides further information on the permit procedure and the assessment of transboundary environmental impacts.

The EIA procedure

The self-governing province of Åland is an autonomous region of Finland and has its own parliament and government, which have legislative powers in certain areas, such as environmental issues. According to Article 2 of the Act on Autonomy of Åland (1991/1144)¹, Åland comprises the territorial waters directly adjacent to its land territory according to the enactments in force on the limits of the territorial waters of Finland. The EIA procedure in Åland is regulated by the Region Act on Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Assessment (2018:31)², and the Regional Regulation on Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Assessment (2018:33)³.

The transboundary EIA procedure has distinct stages, which include notifying the affected Parties, organizing participation and information exchange, and providing an EIA documentation and a final result. The public and the authorities will be consulted at least in the scoping phase, and if the affected Party intends to participate in the EIA procedure, also in the consultation phase concerning an EIA documentation. After the scoping phase, the authorities in Åland will write a statement on the adequacy of the documentation. The project developer then prepares an EIA documentation, which is submitted to the affected Parties for consultation. The final decision on the planned project is provided to the affected Parties.

Participation in the transboundary EIA procedure

In pursuant to Article 3(3) of the Espoo Convention, please send the response by e-mail to the register office (kirjaamo@syke.fi) **by 18 August 2023** and:

- acknowledge receipt of the notification,
- indicate whether your State intends to participate in the EIA procedure,
- provide comments on the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts concerning the planned project on the territory of your State, and
- submit any comments received from the public and the authorities and in your State.

The comments will be compiled and included in an EIA documentation.

More information

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EIA authority: Government of Åland, Mikael Wennström, tel. +358 182 5455, mikael.wennstrom@regeringen.ax

¹ Självstyrelselag för Åland (1144:1991)

² Landskapslag (2018:31) om miljökonsekvensbedömning och miljöbedömning

³ Landskapsförordning (2018:33) om miljökonsekvensbedömning och miljöbedömning



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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	Underlag för avgränsningssamråd, Samrådsunderlag för havsvindkraftsprojektet Stormskär och Väderskär
Distribution	Norwegian Environment Agency, Ms. Guro Sylling Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Mr. Richard Kristoffersson
For information	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland Ministry of the Environment

