



To points of contact for Espoo Convention in:
Sweden, Germany and Poland

**Consultation in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the
Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for the
amendment to the EIA-report for Kriegers Flak offshore
windfarm**

Denmark is conducting an Espoo consultation for the amendment to the EIA-report (2015) for Kriegers Flak offshore windfarm. The Danish Energy Agency finds that environmental impacts from the project not described in the original EIA-report is of minor significance and not causing significant adverse effects. The Danish Energy Agency expects to issue final EIA-permit and approval of the project in January 2020.

In 2012 the EIA-process for Kriegers Flak offshore windfarm was notified according to article 3 of the Espoo Convention. Denmark, as Party of Origin, received your response where you indicated your wish to participate in the EIA procedure.

The EIA-report itself was submitted for Espoo consultation in December 2015 where responses was received from Germany and Sweden. Attached to this letter you will find the official note dated June 2016 in which the Danish Energy Agency has listed the received consultation responses and reply to responses. A construction license for the Kriegers Flak offshore windfarm was issued to Vattenfall in December 2016.

According to the construction license, Vattenfall had to submit a detailed project plan to the Danish Energy Agency for final approval. The detailed project plan contains information on the selected wind turbines, specific layout of the offshore windfarm, detailed plan for the construction works etc. and documentation supporting that the detailed project is covered by the EIA. The Danish Energy Agency received the detailed project plan in May 2019.

The Danish Energy Agency has determined that the detailed project leads to environmental impacts not sufficiently covered by the EIA-report that was subject to public hearing in Denmark and consultation in accordance with article 4 and 5 of the Espoo Convention in December 2015.

Subsequently the Danish Energy Agency has requested that Vattenfall submit a supplement to the EIA-report. This supplement is treated as an amendment to the existing EIA-report and thus a public hearing in Denmark and an additional Espoo consultation in accordance with article 4 and 5 of the Espoo Convention is undertaken for this amendment to the EIA.

Material from the public hearing and Espoo consultation of December 2015 for the original EIA-report can be accessed on the website of the Danish Energy Agency:

<https://ens.dk/service/aktuelle-udbud/kriegers-flak>

The amendment to the EIA-report

The need for an amendment to the EIA-report is due to the final layout of the windfarm within the overall 250 km² area reserved for the Kriegers Flak offshore windfarm and the type of wind turbines selected by Vattenfall in their detailed project. Specifically the layout of the detailed project is more spread out and with a greater distance between the wind turbines than covered by the tentative layout scenarios shown in the original EIA-report and the wind turbines themselves emit slightly more noise than estimated in the EIA-report.

The Danish Energy Agency wants to emphasize that the detailed project layout is still within the project area and in line with the construction license given to Vattenfall in December 2016.

The amendment to the EIA-report aims to describe the environmental impacts caused by the detailed project not covered in the EIA-report, including potential transboundary environmental impacts.

The environmental factors estimated to potentially be affected beyond what is described in the EIA-report from 2015 are: navigational risk, noise emissions from the wind turbines, impacts on landscape, bird displacement and collision risk and impacts on marine mammals in relation to underwater noise from the construction phase and a contiguous Natura 2000 area under Swedish territory. For the remaining environmental factors the amendment to the EIA-report argues why these are not affected beyond what is described in the EIA-report from 2015.

The amendment to the EIA-report will not include environmental impacts from the land-based part of the project, which is already

under construction, or the offshore substations, which are not affected by the detailed project.

Evaluation of the amendment to the EIA-report

The Danish Energy Agency has examined the amendment to the EIA-report prior to the public hearing and Espoo consultation and finds, that the additional environmental impacts overall are of minor significance and not causing significant adverse effects. It should be noted that the Danish Maritime Authority has approved the navigational risk in June 2019 based on an updated analysis of the navigational risk from the detailed project. It should also be noted that Vattenfall is required to follow the Danish guidelines from mitigation of impacts on marine mammals, which will ensure that no significant adverse effects from the pile driving are suffered by the affected species.

The Danish Energy Agency thus expects to be able to give Vattenfall the final approval of the detailed project and final EIA-permit in week 3 of 2020 with scheduled construction to start in February 2020 and with final deadline for the connection of the windfarm to the grid by January 1st 2022.

Consultation process

Denmark, as the Party of Origin, would like to draw your attention to the obligation of the concerned parties to arrange for distribution of the documentation to the authorities and the public in the areas likely to be affected.

Denmark would also like to emphasize that the consultation is *only* in relation to the amendment to the EIA-report and the impacts from the detailed project not covered by the EIA-report from 2015. This consultation does *not* regard the project or the EIA-report itself, since these were subject to public hearing and Espoo consultation in December 2015 and that construction permit for the project was given in December 2016.

Final approval of the detailed project, including the final EIA-permit, is awaiting the public hearing and Espoo consultation of this amendment to the EIA-report.

For your information, the public, NGOs and the authorities in Denmark will be consulted on the supplementary EIA documentation from the 22nd of October until the 17th of December 2019.

Denmark kindly asks you to submit your comments **no later than 17th of December 2019** and to:

- provide comments concerning the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project affecting your country from Denmark,

- submit any comments you might receive from the public and the authorities in your country, and
- indicate preferably already before 17th of December if you see a need for additional consultations.

Yours sincerely,



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List of EIA documentation

1. Non-technical summary of the amendment to the EIA-report and report on the transboundary effects, dated October 2019 (*available in Danish, German and Polish*)
2. Official note by the Danish Energy Agency, dated June 2016, on the replies from the Espoo consultation of December 2015 and the agency's response to the raised issues (*available in English*).
3. Non-technical summary of the EIA-report from 2015 (*available in English*)

Item 1- 3, documents relevant for the transboundary environmental impact assessment, can also be downloaded from the Danish Energy Agency's website

<https://ens.dk/service/hoeringer/offentlig-hoering-af-tillaeg-til-vvm-rapport-kriegers-flak-havvindmoellepark>

The link to the Danish Energy Agency's website will be active from the 22nd of October 2019.

For more information about the project and the amendment to the EIA-report

Developer

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