



22 January 2021

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Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
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Notification in accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for the Tornio River Basin Management Plan

With this letter Finland would like to notify Sweden regarding the River Basin Management Plan of the Tornio River Basin District and the related Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This notification is based on Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). Please find enclosed the draft plan (part 1) and the incorporated environmental report in Swedish with summary in Northern Sámi. In addition, find enclosed the part 2 of the draft plan in Swedish. Part 2 includes the principles and methods used in planning.

Description of the planning and decision-making procedure

The European Union Water Framework Directive has been implemented in Finland through Act on the Organisation of River Basin Management and the Marine Strategy (1299/2004), the Government Decree on Water Resources Management Regions (1303/2004), and the Government Decree on Water Resources Management (1040/2006). In accordance with the legislation, river basin management plans are being drawn up for seven river basin districts in mainland Finland. Two of these are international river basin districts, the Tornio district shared with Sweden and the Teno–Näätämö–Paatsjoki district shared with Norway.

The river basin management plans for 2022–2027 are being drawn up by the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres). The plans contain detailed information about classification of surface and ground waters, pressures that may cause deterioration in water quality, environmental objectives, and measures to achieve these objectives and their related costs. The planning process also includes assessing environmental impacts and the documentation of the impacts (environmental report). In addition to the river basin management plans, detailed programmes of measures will be drawn up. Each river basin management plan includes a summary of the programmes of measures drawn up for the river basin district.



During the preparation of the river basin management plans the public and authorities are given an opportunity to view the draft plan and the environmental report and to express opinions on them. The documents and a public notice are available for viewing in electronic format in official network of the environmental administration. The ELY Centres also post a public notice on municipal networks in municipalities in the likely area of impact, stating that the plan documents are available for public consultation. The ELY Centres also request statements on the drafts of the river basin management plans from the relevant authorities and stakeholders.

Besides public consultation, different types of cooperation and interaction with the various authorities and other parties takes place during the preparation of the river basin management plans. In the international river basin districts, cross-border collaboration has also been included. The transboundary water cooperation with Sweden and Norway is based on treaties. Finland concluded a bilateral agreement on transboundary water with Norway in 1981 and with Sweden in 2010. Agreement on the Finnish–Norwegian River Basin District was adopted in 2014. A Memorandum of Understanding complements this Agreement. When preparing the river basin management plans, the competent authorities must ensure the necessary mutual coordination in their implementation of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive for achieving the environmental objectives.

The consultation with public and authorities concerning the draft plans for the years 2022–2027 and the related environmental reports is underway in Finland till 14th May 2021. The plans will be finalised on the basis of the opinions and comments received. The Government will approve the river basin management plans at the end of 2021.

Request for an answer to this notification

Referring to Article 10 paragraph 3 of the SEA Protocol, Finland kindly asks Sweden to respond **by 23 March 2021 at the latest**, and to

- acknowledge the receipt of this notification and
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the SEA procedure,

and if your country is participating, **by 31 May 2021 at the latest**

- submit possible comments on the draft plan and the environmental report.



Please send your replies to this letter to the following postal address:

Ministry of the Environment
Mr Lasse Tallskog
PO Box 35
FIN-00023 Government
Finland

or by email to kirjaamo@ym.fi, with a cc to lasse.tallskog@ym.fi.

The Ministry of the Environment kindly asks Sweden to contact without delay Mr. Lasse Tallskog if the timetable presented above is not suitable for Sweden to allow the authorities and the public in Sweden to express their opinions on the draft plan and the environmental report and to submit possible comments to Finland.

For more information about the planning process, the draft plan and the SEA, please contact:

Authority responsible for preparing the plan and environmental report

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Lapland
Contact person: Mr Pekka Räinen
Telephone: +358 295 037 517
E-mail: pekka.raina@ely-keskus.fi

Authority responsible for the Protocol on SEA in Finland

Ministry of the Environment
Contact person: Mr Lasse Tallskog
Telephone: +358 50 413 0550
E-mail: lasse.tallskog@ym.fi

Yours sincerely,

Permanent Secretary

Juhani Damski

Ministerial Adviser

Lasse Tallskog



Enclosures

The draft plan (part 1) and the incorporated environmental report in Swedish with summary in Northern Sámi.

The part 2 of the draft plan in Swedish.

For information (without enclosures)

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Lapland