



To Point of Contact for the Espoo
Convention in Finland

Our ref 31 July 2019 No 7-12/19/4171-2

Notification of the strategic environmental assessment of the National Radiation Safety Development Plan 2018–2027, the National Radon Action Plan and the National Action Plan for Radioactive Waste Management

In accordance with article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, Estonia hereby notifies of the SEA of the National Radiation Safety Development Plan 2018–2027, the National Radon Action Plan and the National Action Plan for Radioactive Waste Management. Please be informed that this notification is only sent by e-mail.

Overview of the SEA of the National Radiation Safety Development Plan 2018–2027, the National Radon Action Plan and the National Action Plan for Radioactive Waste Management

The SEA was initiated on 18 January 2017 by the decision of Estonia's Minister of Environment. The authority responsible for the preparations of the abovementioned development plans is the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia.

The objective of the National Radiation Safety Development Plan is the management of radiation protection during 2018-2027 to ensure an optimal radiation safety, and the effectiveness and development of radiation protection in Estonia.

Strategic sub-objectives of the Development Plan are as follows:

- improved efficiency of the infrastructure for radiation safety
- improved awareness of and competence in radiation safety
- reduced hazards related to radioactive wastes and the treatment thereof
- preparedness to prevent and solve radiation events
- reduced risks from natural radiation sources
- justified use of medical radiation and safety thereof

Based on the sub-objectives, the areas of activity are: radiation-related training, radiation awareness, management of radioactive waste, radiation events, natural radiation and medical radiation. The developments of these fields is important at least during the following decade.

Six strategic sub-objectives have been set in the development plan and they require more detailed courses of action for their achievement. The determined courses of actions form the basis for the establishment of the development plan for the specific period. The development plan has specified the roles of various institutions, the needs and opportunities for financing the activity and the indicators for the success of the activity.

Two action plans form the annexes to the National Radiation Safety Development Plan: the National Radon Action Plan and the National Action Plan for Radioactive Waste Management.

The need to prepare the National Radon Action Plan arose from the European Union Directive 2013/59/Euratom (hereinafter “Directive”), which became effective in 2013, laying down the basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation. The Directive stipulates requirements for the preparation of a national radon action plan. In application of Article 100 (1) of the Directive, Member States shall establish a national action plan addressing long-term risks from radon exposures in dwellings, buildings with public access and workplaces for any source of radon ingress, whether from soil, building materials or water. The action plan shall take into account the issues set out in Annex XVIII. One of the sub-objectives of National Radiation Safety Development Plan 2018–2027 is the reduction of risks from natural sources of radiation (incl. radon).

The need to establish a National Action Plan for Radioactive Waste Management arose from Directive 2011/70/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, which became effective in 2011 and stipulates requirements for the preparation of a national action plan for radioactive waste management. Safe and coordinated management of radioactive waste is the most important activity for Estonia from the position of ensuring radiation safety. One of the sub-objectives of National Radiation Safety Development Plan 2018–2027 is the reduction of the threats related to radioactive waste and its management.

The National Action Plan for Radioactive Waste Management was approved with the regulation No. 688 of the Minister of the Environment on 21.07.2015. The updated National Action Plan for Radioactive Waste Management shall be submitted as an annex to the National Radiation Safety Development Plan 2018–2027. The purpose for updating the action plan was to renew the action plan as a result of the amendments to the Radiation Act that became effective on 01.11.2016 (e.g. the addition of the NORM residues concept), and in relation to the new developments in the treatment of NORM wastes. Furthermore, the information relating to the demolition of the reactor sections of the former nuclear site of Paldiski and the establishment of the final storage site of the radioactive wastes has also been updated in the action plan.

The action plan forms the basis for radioactive waste management. The aim of the plan is to offer decision-makers and waste handlers specific solutions for the systematic management of radioactive waste and to reduce their amounts in the Republic of Estonia. The plan will also offer enough information for the wider public about the radioactive waste generated and to be generated, and their management.

SEA procedure in Estonia

SEA is regulated by the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act. SEA shall be carried out during the preparation of a strategic planning document.

After the initiation of SEA, the leading expert or an expert group under the supervision of the leading expert will, jointly with the authority responsible for the preparation of a strategic planning document, prepare a SEA programme. The programme consists of information on the proposed activity and the content of SEA. Before the publication of the SEA programme, the authority responsible for the preparation of a strategic planning document must ask for an opinion on the content of the programme from all the authorities concerned. After the publication of the SEA

programme (public display and public hearing), the authority responsible for the preparation of a strategic planning document has to verify of compliance of SEA report with the requirements.

On the basis of the SEA programme, that has been declared compliant, a SEA report will be prepared. The SEA report stages include similar proceedings as the SEA programme stage: asking for opinion from the authorities concerned and publication. As part of verification of compliance of the SEA report with the requirements, the report will also be sent to the authorities concerned for approval.

The authority who prepares the strategic planning document has to take into account the results of SEA and the results of transboundary consultations, where relevant.

The SEA of the National Radiation Safety Development Plan 2018–2027, the National Radon Action Plan and the National Action Plan for Radioactive Waste Management in Estonia is on the SEA report public display phase.

Answering to the notification and submitting comments:

Referring to the Article 10.3 of the SEA Protocol, we kindly ask you to respond to this notification within two month of the receipt of this notification and to:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the transboundary SEA procedure
- submit any comments you might receive from the public and authorities in your country regarding the summary of the SEA report

Kindly answer to this notification by e-mail to the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia keskkonnaministeerium@envir.ee. Alternatively by post to: Ministry of the Environment of Estonia Narva mnt 7a, 15172 Tallinn, Estonia.

Sincerely Yours,



Kerli Kiili
Acting Deputy Secretary General

Enclosures: 1. The summary of the SEA report in English
2. The summary of the SEA report in Finnish

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