



SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

2023-12-05

Richard Kristoffersson
Phone: +46 (0) 10-698 17 69
richard.kristoffersson
@swedishepa.se

Case number:
NV-02330-23

To the Point of Contact in:
Finland
Estonia
Latvia
Poland
Germany

Supplementary notification pursuant to Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the planned offshore wind farm “Herkules” in Sweden’s economic zone

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) notified your country regarding the planned OWF “Herkules” in March 2023 according to article 3 point 1 of the Espoo Convention. As a party of origin, Sweden hereby notifies your country regarding some changes in the number of turbines and design of the project area that the developer has presented.

Information on the project

In the first notification, the developer, *Simply Blue Energy*, presented plans to investigate the possibility to establish an OWF in the SEZ approximately 60 kilometres southeast of the island *Gotska sandön*, Sweden. The so-called *Hoburgs bank* and *Midsjöbankarna* Nature 2000 areas are located 22 kilometres from the project area for OWF Herkules.

Now, Simply Blue Energy would like to supplement prior scoping document, with an increased number of turbines. Further, Simply Blue Energy would like to present new example layouts based on the adjustment. No changes to the project area are planned. The reason for the increased number of turbines is to investigate alternative scenarios, where different turbine sizes (between 15-25 MW) may be relevant. In the previously prepared scoping document, it was stated that the wind farm will consist of a maximum of 121 wind turbines. The number has now been adjusted to a maximum of 160 wind turbines, with an unchanged maximum total height of 360 m. A design with 160 wind turbines of 15 MW gives a total installed capacity of approx. 2.4 GW with an expected annual production of about 13 TWh.

This notification consultation only regards the changes presented in the attached amendment to the scoping document of the project. Earlier comments received in the prior notification will still be used in the work with the EIA.

Application process

The construction and operation of wind turbines and associated projects in the SEZ, requires a permit from the Swedish Government in accordance with the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone Act (1992:1140). In a permit assessment under the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone Act, certain rules in the Swedish Environmental Code (1998:808) apply. Government approval is also required in accordance with the Continental Shelf Act (1966:314) for the developer to be allowed to place out cables on the continental shelf including both the internal network cables within the OWF as well as the marine cables from the OWF to the shore.

Comments received during the consultation process will be compiled and included in a consultation report. The consultation report is used in the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and will be added as an attachment when the application is submitted.

Participating in the transboundary EIA-procedure

Referring to Article 3.3 of the Espoo Convention, Sweden kindly asks that potential comments are submitted **no later than the 31st of January 2024** and for you to:

1. acknowledge the receipt of the supplementary notification,
2. provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the present changes of the project, and
3. submit any comments received from the public.

Kindly send eventual answer to this notification by e-mail to:

registrator@naturvardsverket.se. Please indicate case number: NV-02263-23 and “Herkules” in your answer.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Nanna Wikholm
Head of Unit

Richard Kristoffersson
Point of Contact for the
Espoo Convention

Attachments

Amendment to scoping report (Available in Finnish, English and Polish)

Cc

Sandra Jalalian and Bastian Ljunggren at the Ministry of Climate and Enterprise