



SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

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Case number:
NV-02263-23

To the Point of Contact in:
Finland

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

According to article 3 point 1 of the Espoo Convention, affected countries shall be notified and consulted on projects that are likely to cause transboundary environmental impacts. As a party of origin, Sweden hereby notifies Finland about the plans to develop the offshore windfarm (OWF) “Skidbladner”, located within Sweden’s economic zone (SEZ) in the Baltic Sea.

Information on the project

The developer, *Simply Blue Group*, plans to investigate the possibility to establish an OWF in the SEZ approximately 22 kilometres southeast of the island *Gotska sandön*, Sweden. The so-called *Salvorev-Kopparstenarna* nature reserve is also situated in a south-eastern location from the project area.

The project area spans 1 423 square kilometres and has a varying sea depth of 14 – 197 metres. The maximum total height of the wind turbines is estimated to be 360 metres and they will be anchored with floating foundations that, in turn, are moored to the seabed. OWF Skidbladner is estimated to consist of up to 111 wind turbines with a total installed capacity of 2,2 GW and an expected annual production of about 11,7 TWh. The developer is, however, considering two alternative designs for the OWF, namely:

1. 82 wind turbines with a height of 325 meters and an annual production capacity of 8,6 TWh, or
2. 111 wind turbines with a height of 325 meters and an annual production capacity of 11,7 TWh.

The final design for the wind farm will be based on the forthcoming seabed surveys and information received during consultations.

The individual turbines within Skidbladner will be coupled via an internal cable network that transmits the produced energy to one or more offshore substations (OSS) where the electricity will be converted to a high voltage and transmitted

to shore through one or more marine cables that are coupled to a landcable and in extension, the Swedish transmission grid. Another alternative is to connect Skidbladner OSSs to one of the offshore connection points proposed by *Svenska kraftnät*, located on the border between the territorial water's boundary and the SEZ.

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.

The project area for Skidbladner is adjacent to the Natura 2000 area *Gotska Sandön-Salvorev*. Because of it, the developer will need to apply for a permit that is examined and determined by the County Administrative Board of Gotland according to the Swedish Environmental Code.

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 17th of May 2023** and for you to:

1. acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
2. indicate, whether your country intends to participate in the EIA procedure,
3. provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project on your territory, and
4. submit any comments received from the public in Finland.

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

registrator@naturvardsverket.se. Please indicate case number: NV-02263-23 and "Skidbladner" in your answer.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Elin Andersen
Head of Unit

Richard Kristoffersson
Point of Contact for the
Espoo Convention

Attachments

Scoping report (Available in Swedish, English, and Polish)

Appendix 1. Proposed Consultation Group (Available in English and Polish)

Cc

Sandra Jalalian and Astrid Öfverholm at the Ministry of Climate and Enterprise