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2023-06-07 Case number:  
NV-06054-21

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**Consultation in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the plans for reopening the operations at the Viscaria mine in Kiruna municipal, Norrbotten County**

In accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), Sweden hereby invites Finland to submit comments on Copperstone Viscaria ABs permit application and environmental impact assesment (EIA) for the plans of reopening the operations at the Viscaria mine in Kiruna municipal, Norrbotten County

**The planned project**

The developer, Copperstone Viscaria AB has turned in an application for permits in accordance with the Environmental Code (SFS 1998: 808) for environmentally hazardous activities and water activities.

The planned mining operations include mining of ore in opencast mines and underground mines, processing in concentrators with a capacity to process up to 3 Mton, enrichment of copper and iron ore as well as waste rock and enrichment sand from previous mining in the area. Planned operation area is adjacent to the Natura 2000 area Torne and Kalix river system, approx. 3 km west of Kiruna community in Kiruna municipality, Norrbotten county.

Due to the size of the documentation, this can be downloaded via the link provided in the e-mail. There you will find the developer's permit application and EIA documentation, supplementary documents and relevant investigations in relation to potential transboundary effects, translated into Finnish. Attached is also a letter explaining the EIA and its appendices along with further explanations of the application process.

**Upcoming process**

The Swedish environmental court in Umeå has planned for a site visit to the area of the planned activity in the end of September 2023, an invitation for Finnish parties will be provided as soon as the dates are set. By the end of October, the developer will prepare eventual response and possible additions due to received opinions, which will be sent out for further possibility to comment.

The main hearing for the case is preliminary planned the in February 2024, more details regarding this will be presented during the fall of 2023. After the main hearing is over, the court goes into deliberations, and if there are no special reasons, the court's decision shall be announced within two months after the main hearing was concluded.

Sweden kindly asks you to submit your comments **no later than 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2023** and to:

- provide comments concerning the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project affecting your country.
- submit any comments you might receive from the public and the authorities in your country.

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

[registrator@naturvardsverket.se](mailto:registrator@naturvardsverket.se). Please indicate Case number NV-06054-21 and "Viscaria" in your answer.

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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, Espoo Convention

Attachments

Missive from the developer (Swedish and English)

Cc.

The Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Sandra Jalalian  
Mannheimer Swartling Advokatbyrå AB, Helles Stoytcheva