



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

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NV-02980-21

Finnish Environment Institute
(SYKE)
transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi
kirjaamo@syke.fi
Laura Aitala-Marteseuo
laura.aitala-marteseuo@syke.fi

Invitation to continuation of consultation regarding prior comments from Finland, regarding the plans for the offshore wind farm in the Sea of Bothnia in Sweden's economic zone, Eystrasalt Offshore.

On the 29th of January 2024, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) invited Finland to participate in consultation in accordance with article 4-5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the application and EIA for planned offshore windfarm "Eystrasalt". Finland replied with comments received from authorities and organizations on the 8th of March 2024.

The developer has now prepared replies to the specific comments received, both during the national hearing and the transboundary consultation. The SEPA noted in Finland's reply, the request for further consultation and sees this response from the developer to Finland's comments as a part of the continuation of the ongoing consultation.

As comments from Swedish authorities and organizations were replied to and given the opportunity to receive and comment on the developers reply, SEPA now invites the authorities and organizations in Finland who's comments now have been replied to, to review these and eventually leave further comments to be taken into count by the permitting authority. This is to give the Finnish parties the same possibility to assess the developers replies as Swedish parties.

This consultation should not be seen as a new public consultation, but only responses directed to the specific questions reised by the authorities and organizations that have commented before, to whom the response is now directed. SEPA does not anticipate any comments addressing new topics at this stage as the formal consultation already has been carried out and the present material only aims to address specific comments already received.

The planned project

The Eystrasalt Offshore wind farm is planned to be developed on the Eystrasalt Bank in the Bothnian Sea, outside of Hudiksvall within Sweden's economic zone. The project regards the establishment of a wind farm with an installed output of approximately 3,900 MW with wind turbines with a maximum total height of 370 m. The project is estimated to be able to produce approximately 15 TWh of renewable energy per year. The distance to the Finnish economic zone is about 13 km and the shortest distance to the Finnish coast is about 110 km. The planned project area covers an area of approximately 949 km² with an average depth of approximately 42 m.

As the project is located in Sweden's economic zone, a permit is required according to Section 5 of the Swedish Economic Zone Act (1992:1140) to build and operate the facilities. Permits under SEZ are reviewed and decided by the government. To an application in the case of an SEZ permit, an EIA must be drawn up and chapter. 2–4 shall be applied for the examination. and chapter. 5 §§ 3–5 and 18 of the Environmental code.

Upcoming process

The developer has submitted an environmental impact assessment to the government in accordance with the law (1992:1140) on Sweden's economic zone (SEZ), the government has commissioned the county administrative board of Gävleborg to prepare the permit application. The county administrative board will take into account eventual further comments received based on the developer's reply.

Sweden kindly asks you to submit your comments **no later than 7th of June 2024**

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

registrator@naturvardsverket.se. Please indicate Case number NV-02980-21 and "Eystrasalt" 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, Espoo Convention

Attachments sent on the 29th of May 2024

Reply to comments from Finland (Swedish and Finnish)

Bilaga 2 – Reply to national comments (Swedish and Finnish)

240327 Developers reply on received comment (Swedish and Finnish)

Bilaga 1 - Consolidated proposals for terms and conditions (Swedish and Finnish)

Bilaga A ESBO yttrande (Map of area layout change)

Bilaga B1 - Complementary hazard and analysis winter shipping (Swedish and Finnish)
Bilaga B2 - Response to comments related to fish (Swedish and Finnish)
Bilaga B3 - Reply to comments regarding birds (Swedish and Finnish)
Bilaga M11A - Commercial fishing catches and trawl locations using Vessel
Monitoring System (VMS) data(25002934) (English)
Bilaga M11B - Commercial fishing Questionnaire Results(25002935) (English)
Bilaga M12 - Economic effects on fishery (SE) (Swedish)

Cc.

The Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Eleonora Rönström and Bastian Ljunggren