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2020-09-07 Case number:
NV-06410-11

To point of contact in:
Finland
Denmark
Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Russian Federation

Notification pursuant to Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the planned offshore windfarm Södra Midsjöbanken.

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 Point of Contacts regarding the planned offshore windfarm at Södra Midsjöbanken.

Information on the project

RWE Renewables Sweden AB, formerly E.ON Wind Sweden AB (hereinafter RWE), began in 2006 to explore the options for establishing a major offshore wind farm in southern Sweden. In 2007, the company applied for and received a survey license in accordance with the Swedish Continental Shelf Act (1966:314) (KSL). The license was valid from 15 March 2007 to 15 March 2012 and was used between February and April 2011. An extension to the validity of the survey license up to and including 2018 was applied for and granted on 13 March 2012.

In February 2012, the company applied for a license in accordance with the Swedish Economic Zone Act (1992:1140) (SEZ) in order to construct and run a wind farm at Södra Midsjöbanken, and in accordance with the Continental Shelf Act (1966:314).

In December 2016, the authorities designated a sea area of more than 10,500 km² in area in the Baltic Sea as a Special Protection Area (SPA) in accordance with the Birds Directive. In December 2017, the same area was designated as a Site of Community Importance (SCI) in accordance with the Species and

Habitats Directive. The Swedish government stated in an official communication dated 14 March 2019 that RWE's application for a license in accordance with the Swedish Economic Zone Act (1992:1140) (SEZ) to erect an offshore wind farm at Södra Midsjöbanken in the southern Baltic Sea had to be supplemented with a license in accordance with Chapter 7(28 a) of the Environmental Code (EC) (i.e. a Natura 2000 license).

Prior to the application for a license in accordance with Chapter 7(28 a) of the EC, RWE is now consulting on the delimitation and contents of the forthcoming environmental impact assessment (known as a delimitation consultation in accordance with Chapter 6(9) of the EC).

This notification and upcoming consultation relate to the company's application for a Natura 2000 license for the planned offshore windfarm project at Södra Midsjöbanken.

Prior consultation under the Espoo-Convention

In 2011 Sweden notified Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Denmark, Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation regarding the planned offshore windfarm at Södra Midsjöbanken. The notification was regarding application for a permission under the Swedish Economic Zone Act and the Act of the Swedish continental shelf in Sweden.

Sweden received comments from Finland, Estonia and Poland who expressed wishes to participate in the further process.

In 2015, a consultation in accordance to article 4-5 of the Espoo-convention was sent out to Finland, Estonia and Poland who replied with comments. A complementing consultation was also conducted in 2016 and 2017.

Due to the newly (2017) designated Natura-2000 area in the planned project area, the long history of the project and the new design of the windfarm, Sweden found it necessary to once again notify all states who was notified in the beginning of the project plans to inform about the upcoming applications.

Participating in the transboundary EIA-procedure

Referring to Article 3.3 of the Espoo Convention, Sweden kindly asks the addressed Parties to respond **until 23 october 2020** at the latest and

1. acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
2. indicate, whether your country wishes 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.
4. submit any comments you might receive from the public in your country.

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

registrator@naturvardsverket.se Please indicate Case number NV-06410-11 in your answer.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Karolina Ardesjö-Lundén
Head of Unit

Richard Kristoffersson
Point of Contact, Espoo Convention

Appendixes

Consultation document for delimitation consultation (English)

Cc.

The Ministry of the Environment, Emma Sjöberg
RWE Renewables Sweden AB, Emelie Zakrisson
Sweco environment AB, Anna Bokenstrand