



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

*Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia*

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Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Estonia  
[keskkonnaministerium@envir.ee](mailto:keskkonnaministerium@envir.ee)

**Espoo focal point:  
Mr. Kaupo Heinma**

**Regarding notification on Environmental impact assessment  
of the offshore windfarm project in the west coast of Saare county**

Environment State Bureau (hereinafter – the Bureau), acting as a competent authority on environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – EIA) in Latvia would like to thank the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Estonia for sending notification about initiation of EIA procedure concerning planned offshore windfarm project in the west coast of Saare county.

The Bureau acknowledges receipt of the notification.

Having assessed comments and opinions received from various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Environment and Regional development, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nature Protection Agency, State Environmental Service, Latvian Institute of Aquatic biology and other stakeholders and local municipalities, the Bureau herewith informs that the Republic of Latvia intends to participate in EIA process of the offshore windfarm project.

Concerning the scope of assessment – we have summarized information on the aspects for evaluation that were specifically highlighted by various stakeholders, but we kindly ask you to evaluate all aspects of environment according to the Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment:

1. Navigation safety and possible impacts on the navigation (including air transport) control and communication systems, other communication systems and devices.
2. Possible impacts on navigation regime, impact on accessibility of Latvian ports and the reserved navigation areas in the Maritime Spatial Plan of the Republic of Latvia. Possible changes in navigation regime and restrictions on navigation during the operation of facilities and in the event of an accident. In addition, quoting the Ministry of Environment and Regional development, it is essential to “*analyse shipping intensity (Automatic Identification Systems) data, areas reserved for shipping and corridors of perspective electricity cables shown in the Maritime Spatial Plan for the Marine Inland Waters, Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic*”

*Zone Waters of the Republic of Latvia whose translation in English is available on the website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development <https://www.varam.gov.lv/en/maritime-spatial-planning>".*

3. Intended security and protection areas, planned/potential facility service sites, fuel and other facility supply and resource delivery routes.
4. The danger area in the event of accident, possible accident scenarios, their course and planned countermeasures in the case of human search and rescue operations.
5. Possible impact on the dynamics of sediment flow and the regime of current flow.
6. Possible impacts on underwater habitats, birds and marine fauna.
7. Possible impact on the protected territory of European significance (Natura 2000) – “*Irbes šaurums*”.
8. Quoting the Ministry of Environment and Regional development, it is necessary to “*assess the environmental impact of the electricity transmission grid from OWF to onshore development alternatives together with the development of OWF, considering that 600 MW capacity requires electricity transmission (330 kV) infrastructure that is not available on Saaremaa island and the project is located closer to the transmission grid in Latvia (“Kurzeme Ring”) than to the Estonian onshore electricity transmission grid currently being developed in the vicinity of Lihula within the project “Third Estonia-Latvia interconnection”. If the possibilities of electricity transmission to the electricity transmission infrastructure in the North-West of Latvia (“Kurzeme Ring”) are being considered, please consult the responsible Latvian electricity transmission system operator JSC “Augstsprieguma tīkls*”

In addition, we shortly give you an overview of the national requirements for EIA procedures in the Republic of Latvia. We would like to draw your attention that Latvian legislation, in particular the Law on Environmental impact assessment, designates at least 30 days long term for the process of public consultation when elaborated EIA report is discussed. The time is being counted from the day a publication is published in a corresponding newspaper (national, regional, local) which will be ensured by the Republic of Latvia after receiving information from the Republic of Estonia. A public hearing meeting of the intended activity shall be held. According to the national legislation, a public hearing meeting shall be held no sooner than 7 days after publication is published and no later than 10 days before the ending of public consultation process.

In this context we inform, that according to the national law concerning measures for limitation of the spread of infection disease Covid-19 (and limitations for transboundary travelling), the public hearing meeting can be replaced with a video conference and video-presentations.

We kindly ask you to prepare EIA summary that reflects information to the extent and scope necessary for the transboundary EIA (including graphical materials and maps in relation to the transboundary impact aspects) in Latvian.

We are looking forward to our successful bilateral cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



Arnolds Lukšēvics

Director of Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia