



Enerģētikas un vides aģentūra
Energy and Environment Agency

Rūpniecības iela 23, Rīga, LV-1045, Latvia, phone +371 67321173, e-mail pasts@eva.gov.lv, www.eva.gov.lv

Riga

07.02. 2025. Nr. 2.8/23/2025-N

Ref. to: 08.01.2025. No 7-15/24/4254-3

The Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia

e-mail: info@kliimaministerium.ee

cc: Ms. Birgit PARMAS

e-mail: espoo@kliimaministerium.ee

cc: Ms. Lilli Tamm

e-mail: lilli.tamm@kliimaministerium.ee

Regarding the strategic environmental assessment of the “Saarde” wind farm project expansion

The Energy and Environment Agency¹ (hereinafter – the Agency) confirms that on 8 of January 2025 received information from the Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia regarding the Saarde Municipality designated spatial plan and its strategic environmental assessment (hereinafter – SEA) for expansion of the “Saarde” wind farm project (hereinafter – the Spatial Plan) with reference to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. According to the information provided, the SEA of the spatial plan is currently in the programme stage. According to the SEA programme, no transboundary impact to Latvia is anticipated.

The Agency evaluated submitted information and asked the competent authorities for an opinion regarding the possible significant transboundary impact of the Spatial Plan. Information was published also on the Agency`s webpage². The Agency has received response from the Ministry of Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Smart Administration

¹ The Environment State Bureau, in accordance with Cabinet of Ministers order No. 1191 of 17 December 2024 on the reorganization of the Environment State Bureau and State Construction Control Bureau”, reorganized as the Energy and Environment Agency by 01.02.2025.

²eva.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/informacija-par-pernavas-aprinka-sardes-pagasta-teritorijas-planojuma-izstradi-esosaveja-elektrostaciju-parka-saarde-paplasinasanai-igaunija.

and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, the State Environmental Service and the Valmiera District Municipality. The Agency has not received comments from the public.

The State Environment Service noted that the wind farm is planned approximately 7 km from the Latvia – Estonia border (which is a wooded and sparsely populated area) and approximately 9,5 km from the nearest residential house “Purkalins”, in the Parish of *Ipits*, the nearest populated area *Ipits* is located in distance of approximately 15 km. In addition, the Agency concludes that nearest part of the existing “Saarde” wind farm is also located approximately 7 km from the Latvia – Estonia border³.

The State Environment Service concluded that the planned changes – expansion of the wind farm, which would be at a relatively safe distance from the border of the Republic of Latvia, could not have significant environmental impact in the territory of Latvia. In summarizing and evaluating submitted opinions, the Agency concludes that other institutions also expressed this view.

In addition, the Agency shares the State Environment Service and the Valmiera District Municipality highlighted aspects that should be considered in the SEA of the Spatial Plan within assessment of the possible transboundary impacts – the possible cumulative impacts with the planned wind farm “Lode” in the territory of Latvia and the impact on specially protected bird species in the border area.

We kindly ask the Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia and developer of the Spatial Plan consider above mentioned, incl. assessment of indicated possible aspects of transboundary impacts, as well as inform us about the results of the transboundary impact assessment on the territory of Latvia. We would highly appreciate if this information would be available in English.

Looking forward to continuing our successful bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental assessment in the transboundary context.

Enclosures: 6 documents (files: *State Environmental Service_Saarde wind farm.pdf*, *Ministry of Interior_Saarde wind farm.pdf*, *Valmiera District Municipality_Saarde wind farm.pdf*, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs Saarde wind farm.pdf*, *Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development_Saarde wind farm.pdf*, *Ministry of Climate and Energy_Saarde wind farm.pdf*).

Yours sincerely,

Daiga Avdejanova (*signature**) Director of Energy and Environment Agency of the Republic of Latvia

**Document is signed with secure electronical signature and contains a time stamp*

Ilze Lielvalode, +371 67770813
ilze.lielvalode@eva.gov.lv

³ According to the letter No 7-15/19/3294-3, dated on 4 July 2019, of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Estonia, <https://www.eva.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/igaunijas-republikas-vides-ministrijas-pazinojums-par-veja-elektrostaciju-buvniecibu-pernavas-aprinka-sardes-pagasta>