

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS APLINKOS MINISTERIJA THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

A. Jakšto St 4, LT-01105 Vilnius, tel: (+370 5) 266 35 39, fax: (+370 5) 266 36 63, e-mail: info@am.lt http://am.lrv.lt

Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development Pieldu str. 25, Riga LV-1494 Latvia pasts@varam.gov.lv sandija.balka@varam.gov.lv August 4, 2020 No.(10)-D8-4346

NOTIFICATION REGARDING PROPOSED INSTALLATIONS FOR THE HARNESSING OF WIND POWER FOR ENERGY PRODUCTION (WIND FARMS) IN AKMENĖ DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY (VILLAGES OF SUGINČIAI, VEGERIAI AND VĖLAIČIAI)

As a country of origin under whose jurisdiction a proposed activity is envisaged to take place, the Republic of Lithuania hereby notifies the Republic of Latvia about a proposed activity listed in Appendix I to the UN Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (hereinafter referred to as Espoo Convention) – a major installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farm).

The economic activity is proposed by a Lithuanian developer, JSC "Akmenės vėjo energija" and includes construction and operation of up to 16 wind power plants, with a planned capacity of <5.7 MW (each), overall height of <245.5 m and rotor diameter of <163 m. Proposed construction sites of the wind power plants are located in Akmenė district municipality, villages of Suginčiai, Vegeriai and Vėlaičiai. The distance from the proposed economic activity to the State border of the Republic of Latvia is ~280–580 m.

According to Lithuanian legislation and 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, amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (hereinafter referred to as the EIA Directive), installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms) are subject to screening for environmental impact assessment (hereinafter referred to as screening for EIA). The screening for EIA has the objective of determining whether a specific proposed economic activity will be subject to environmental impact assessment and according to Lithuanian legislation is performed by the competent authority. Outcome of the screening for EIA is a screening conclusion on whether an environment impact assessment is obligatory. The conclusion will be adopted by the competent authority, after examining the EIA screening document and taking into account the size and nature of the proposed economic activity, characteristics and sensitivity of local environment, potential environmental impacts, proposals of the public concerned, the results of consultations with national entities of environmental impact assessment (other state institutions and the executive institution of a relevant municipality), and the results of international consultations (if applicable).

Further information on the proposed activity, including available information on its possible transboundary impact is provided in the summary of the EIA screening document, attached to this notification (in English).

Full text of the screening information (in Lithuanian) as well as the mentioned summary (in English) is available online, on the homepage of the Ministry of Environment: http://am.lrv.lt → EN → Activities → Environmental Impact Assessment → Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context → Proposed construction of wind power plants in Akmenė district municipality, villages of Suginčiai, Vegeriai and Vėlaičiai (August 2020).

Referring to Article 3.3 of the Espoo Convention and other relevant provisions of international and national legislation we kindly ask you to respond by **September 15, 2020** at the latest by acknowledging receipt of the notification, expressing your position regarding the need for a transboundary environmental impact assessment for this activity and indicating whether you intend to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedures as a potentially affected country. We also respectfully request you to inform relevant competent authorities and the public of the Republic of Latvia about the proposed economic activity.

Referring to the letter of Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia No. 5-01/1077 (D13-606), dated 2019-12-06, we also attach a summarized table of the projects of similar nature located in vicinity of the border with the Republic of Latvia.

Please address your response to this notification to Mr. Vitalijus Auglys, Point of Contact regarding Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context:

Mr. Vitalijus Auglys Head of Pollution Prevention Policy Group Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania Telephone: +370 686 46 087 E-mail: vitalijus.auglys@am.lt

Enclosures:

Annex 1. Summary of the EIA screening document.

Annex 2. Summarized information on proposed wind farms, located in vicinity of the border with the Republic of Latvia (2015–2019).

Vice-minister

Justina Grigaravičienė

