

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

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Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development Pieldu str. 25, Riga LV-1494 Latvia pasts@varam.gov.lv sandija.balka@varam.gov.lv February 27, 2019 No.(10)-D8- 792

### NOTIFICATION REGARDING A PROPOSED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (WIND FARM)

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 "Pamario jėgainių energija" and includes construction and operation of up to 4 wind power plants, with a planned capacity of up to 4.5 MW (each), tower heights of up to 135 m and the highest point of the blade of up to 220 m. The new wind power plants are planned as an expansion of an existing wind park, which started operating in June of 2016 and consists of 19 wind power plants with a total capacity of 45 MW. The four wind power plants will be constructed in Mažeikiai district municipality, Reivyčiai ward, villages of Kabaldikai and Tulnikiai. The shortest distance from the proposed economic activity to the State border of the Republic of Latvia is 0.8 km.

According to Lithuanian legislation and 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, 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 size and nature of the proposed economic activity, characteristics and sensitivity of local environment, potential environmental impacts, proposals of the public concerned and the results of consultations with entities of environmental impact assessment (other state institutions and the executive institution of the relevant municipality).

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 EIA screening document (in Lithuanian) is available online: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ElhAvEntTCswKwb4tVPxyy3K4ZNOQiFY/view.

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 April 8, 2019 at the latest by acknowledging receipt of the notification and indicating whether you intend to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedures as a potentially affected country. In case of a positive answer please also provide comments on the above mentioned EIA screening document. We also respectfully request you to inform relevant competent authorities and the public of the Republic of Latvia about the proposed economic activity.

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 5) 2663651 E-mail: vitalijus.auglys@am.lt

Yours sincerely,

Žygimantas Vaičiūnas Minister of Energy, acting Minister of Environment



# SUMMARY OF INFORMATION FOR SELECTION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PLANNED ECONOMIC OPERATIONS (CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF WIND POWER PLANTS) IN MAŽEIKIAI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, REIVYČIAI WARD, KABALDIKAI AND TULNIKIAI VILLAGES

# Organizer of planned economic operations:

UAB (Private Limited Liability Company) "Pamario jégainių energija", Chemijos St. 23D-3, LT-51331, Kaunas, mob. tel.: (8 613) 76 158, el. p.: info@pje.lt.

#### Planned economic operations:

Construction and operation of up to 4 wind power plants, planned capacity of each of which is up to 4.5 MW, tower height: up to 135 m, highest point of the blade of the wind power plant: up to 220 m, in Mažeikiai District Municipality, Reivyčiai Ward, Kabaldikai and Tulnikiai Villages in the course of expansion of the wind park consisting of 19 wind power plants, capacity of which is 45 MW, which belongs to UAB "Pamario jėgainių energija" and which started operating in June of 2016.

No water, earth, soil and / or biological variety resources will be used after up to 4 wind power plants are constructed in the wind park consisting of 19 wind power plants which are already being operated. It is planned to use one of the alternative sources of energy – wind power. The beginning of the preparatory and construction works of the planned wind power plants is not clear yet, it could be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 or in 2020. Construction would be carried out in one stage then.

#### Location of planned economic operations:

Telšiai County, Mažeikiai District Municipality, Reivyčiai Ward, Kabaldikai and Tulnikiai Villages, cadastral Nos. of lots: 6127/0005:22, 6127/0005:49, 6127/0005:115 and 6127/0005:33. Layout coordinates of planned wind power plants: 250992, 396228; 6251945, 394479; 6253110, 395562; 6252790, 395909. Pursuant to the solutions of the general plan of the territory of Mažeikiai District approved by the Decision No. T-95 of 27/03/2009 of Mažeikiai District Municipality Board, the territory in which construction and operation of wind power plants is planned is designed for infrastructure and wind energy.

The shortest distance from the planned wind power plants to the national board with the Republic of Latvia is 0.8-1 km (see fig. 1).

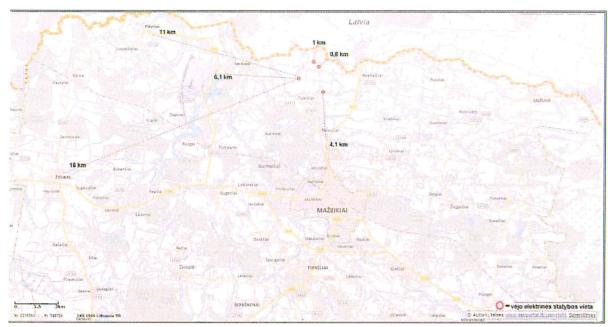


Fig. 1. Layout scheme of planned wind power plants

UAB "Pamario jėgainių energija", the organizer of the planned economic operations, has already been operating a wind park consisting of 19 wind power plants since 2016 in this territory and the locations of construction of 4 more wind power plants which are currently planned are presented in figure 2.

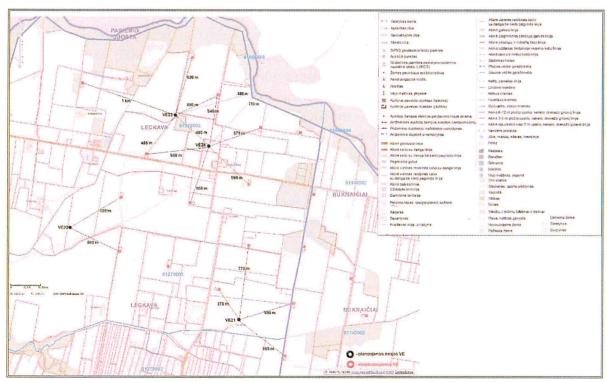


Fig. 2. Layout scheme of planned wind power plants in respect of the wind power plants which are already being operated

When planning construction and operation of up to four wind power plants, it is planned to use the existing infrastructure, e.g. local roads (access roads) which will be strengthened and / or renovated as needed. Generated electricity from wind power plants will be connected to the connection location specified in the connection specifications of the operator of the power networks using underground 110 kV voltage power cables.

#### **Environmental impact:**

One of the main aspects of assessment of environmental impact of wind power plants is noise since it is a direct and clearly "tangible" effect having clear limit values as well as determination and forecasting methods. Therefore, the distance corresponding to at least 45 dBA sound level will be maintained and a sanitary protection zone will be formed taking it into account in order to avoid exceeding the noise levels of wind power plants from the four planned wind power plants to the closest territories of residential homesteads and to the national border with the Republic of Latvia. Calculations of noise dispersion were carried out and their results showed that increased noise of the wind power plants which are being or have already been planned will not reach the closest residential environment and the national border with the Republic of Latvia. No negative impact is forecasted in respect of shadowing either. Planned economic operations will not have any negative impact on weather or climate whatsoever. Wind energy can replace organic fuel used for generating electricity completely. As organic fuel is being incinerated, many pollutants are emitted to the surrounding air; the pollutants cause greenhouse effect, induce global warming, formation of smog and acid rain which destroys vegetation and oxidizes soil. Therefore, usage of wind power is a very important factor for solving environmental issues.

The effect on the landscape cannot be measured or calculated quantitatively; therefore, impact reduction measures are limited and the structures of the wind power plants will be designed imitating the shapes existing in the nature and painted in bright colours in order to reduce the effect on the landscape. Special composition of paint will enable avoiding glittering structures and generation of reflections. Predominant vertical elements — high technogenically designed structures rising above the existing elements of the landscape will appear in the agrarian, scarcely urbanized landscape among the wind power plants which are already being operated; however, the form of the said structures is not too expressive to cause a strong visual effect on the environment or to block and / or prevent from viewing the protected and / or recreational territories and valuable panoramas.

It is forecasted that no significant environmental impact will be caused during the planned economic operations and that the construction works of the wind power plants will not be performed during spring migration of birds, i.e. in March-May, and such works will take place for as short period of time as possible in order to reduce any disturbances to local brooding birds. The most optimal time for performing the construction works of the wind power plants is November-February.

Even if any wind power plant(s) falls (breaks) in an extreme situation, it (they) will not endanger the environment and public health. Mechanical deformations of the towers of wind power plants, their collapse and falling of the blades would cause negative consequences and would be dangerous close to the towers only because heavy structures cannot be carried by the wind. Therefore, the area of potential impact is determined by the height of the structures only which will be up to 220 at the most in this case, whereas the residential territory closest to the wind power plants is 0.6 km away and the national border with the Republic of Latvia is 0.8-1 km away. Planned economic operations will not have any significant international impact on the environment.