



Espoo Convention's Point of Contacts for
Notification in Sweden, Denmark, Norway,
Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the
Russian Federation

Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for final disposal of spent nuclear fuel in Finland

As the Party of Origin, Finland is hereby sending notification, in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention, of a project plan by a Finnish company Fennovoima Oy for the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel of its nuclear power plant.

In the EIA programme (scoping document), the developer proposes that the research, construction, operational, and decommissioning phases of Fennovoima Oy's own encapsulation plant and final disposal facility will be studied during the EIA procedure. Capacity of the encapsulation plant and final disposal facility will be 1,200–1,800 tons of uranium. The chosen technical implementation alternative is the KBS-3 method where the final disposal of nuclear fuel can take place either in vertical holes (KBS-3V) or in horizontal holes (KBS-3H) drilled in final disposal tunnels. The EIA procedure will also include a study of the transport of spent nuclear fuel. Other issues covered by the impact assessment include the effects of ancillary projects, such as the construction of roads and power lines.

The alternative locations are listed below.

- Option 1: Eurajoki municipality
- Option 2: Pyhäjoki municipality (Sydänneva)

Another studied alternative is the zero-option, i.e. not constructing the spent nuclear fuel encapsulation plant and final disposal facility.

The project can be found as item 3b (installations for the final disposal of irradiated nuclear fuel) on the list of activities in Appendix 1 to the Espoo Convention. The project can be found also on the list of activities in the Agreement between Finland and Estonia on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; thus, this agreement shall be applied to the project as well in relation to Estonia.

The Convention states that the concerned Parties shall ensure that the public in the areas likely to be affected are informed of the proposed activity and provided with possibilities for making comments on or objections to the proposed activity, and that these comments or objections are transmitted to the competent authority of the Party of Origin. The Finnish Ministry of the Environment is the Point of Contact of the Espoo Convention in Finland. The Ministry is prepared to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that your public is provided with similar opportunities as the Finnish public has to comment on the EIA programme at this stage. Please contact Ms Seija

Rantakallio (Ministry of the Environment), if you require further information or assistance on this matter.

The decision-making procedure for the construction of a nuclear facility

The Nuclear Energy Act (990/1987) and the Nuclear Energy Decree (161/1988) define the licensing procedure and the conditions for the use of nuclear energy, including waste management and the responsibilities and powers of the authorities. The detailed Finnish licensing requirements for nuclear installations are outlined in the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) regulatory guides (www.stuk.fi).

The operator submits an application to the Government to obtain a decision-in-principle on the expansion of the planned repository for spent nuclear fuel. The Government requests a preliminary safety appraisal from the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) and a statement from the municipality of the intended site for the planned nuclear facility. In addition, the Government requests statements from other authorities and related bodies, and organizes a public hearing in the municipality where the facility is planned to be located for the residents of the municipality and of neighboring municipalities. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is responsible for preparing the decision.

The Government shall make a decision-in-principle on whether the construction of the facility is, or is not, in line with the overall good of society. A favorable decision-in-principle is forwarded to Parliament for ratification. Parliament may either ratify or reject the decision-in-principle as such. If the decision-in-principle is favorable, and Parliament ratifies it, the operator applies in due time for a construction license from the Government. The Government requests all relevant statements and decides whether to issue a license for the construction of the nuclear facility.

Towards the end of the construction phase, the operator applies for an operating license for the facility. After it has received the necessary official statements, the Government decides whether to issue an operating license for the facility.

EIA procedure in Finland

The Finnish EIA procedure consists of two phases: the EIA programme (scoping document) phase and the EIA documentation phase. The assessment procedure begins when the developer submits the EIA programme to the competent authority, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment in nuclear energy related projects. The EIA programme contains information on what are the potential environmental impacts of the project and on the alternatives to the project that are proposed to be studied and assessed. Authorities, the public and NGOs are entitled to comment on the EIA programme. The competent authority will take into account the comments received, domestically and from abroad, and will issue its own opinion on the EIA programme. In its statement, the authority will indicate which investigations the developer must concentrate on and how the proposal for the EIA programme should be amended. In accordance with the Finnish EIA legislation, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment must give its own statement to the developer on the adequacy of the EIA programme within one month after the end of the commenting period.

It is the duty of the developer to assess the environmental impacts of the project and its alternatives. The developer draws up the assessment documentation report on the basis of the investigations carried out. Authorities, the public and NGOs are entitled to comment also on the EIA documentation. The competent authority collects all the opinions and statements submitted on the EIA documentation and, after taking these into account, issues its own opinion on the EIA documenta-

tion. The EIA procedure is concluded when the competent authority forwards its own statement to the developer on the adequacy of the EIA.

The EIA must be carried out before any decisions on licensing can be made. The developer attaches the EIA documentation to the decision-in-principle application. The final decision according to the Espoo Convention is the construction license as it can be challenged.

Answer to the notification

The public hearing of the EIA programme will begin on 12 September and will last until 10 November, 2016. The notification is done at this point because the EIA programme is made available to the public before the official commenting period due to the domestic procedure. The developer was obliged in the decision-in-principle of the Fennovoima Oy's nuclear power plant to either deliver the EIA programme of its plans for final disposal of spent nuclear fuel or present an agreement on collaboration with other nuclear power companies in Finland regarding nuclear waste management by the end of June, 2016. Fennovoima Oy has delivered the EIA programme. The programme is only available in Finnish at the moment. However the translations will be provided to you before the beginning of the commenting period.

The EIA programme will be available in Finnish, Swedish and English. The document intended for the public of the Parties of the Espoo Convention will be available in Finnish, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, German, Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Russian and English.

Referring to Article 3.3 of the Espoo Convention, Finland kindly asks your country **to respond on 24 November, 2016 at the latest**, and to

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the EIA procedure,
- provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the likely significant environmental impacts of the project affecting your country, and
- submit any comments you might receive from the public in your country.

Kindly send the answer to this notification to the Ministry of the Environment: Kirjaamo@ym.fi or by mail (Ministry of the Environment, PO Box 35, FIN-00023 Government, Finland)

Permanent Secretary


Hannele Pokka

Ministerial Adviser


Seija Rantakallio

Annex

- Fennovoima Oy: Project description

Enclosure (the document has been prepared by the developer):

- Link to the Environmental Impact Assessment Programme -In Finnish at this stage

For more information about the project and the EIA:

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