



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

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Environment State Bureau of the
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9 March 2015
5 February 2015

No (10-3)-D8-1817
No 3-02/203

Ms. Sandija Balka
Ministry of Environmental Protection and
Regional Development
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LV-1494 Latvia

**REGARDING NOTIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7 OF THE
DIRECTIVE 2011/92/EU ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF
CERTAIN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROJECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND
ARTICLE 3 OF THE CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT (ESPOO CONVENTION)
FOR THE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPEAN GAUGE PUBLIC
RAILWAY LINE „RAIL BALTICA2“ INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania would like to thank you for notification dated 5 of February 2015 No 3-02/203 about the initiation of environmental impact assessment procedure of the development project “Construction of European gauge public railway line “Rail Baltica 2” (hereinafter – Project) infrastructure and for the information about the project and its proposed alternatives.

The Project “Construction of European gauge public railway line “Rail Baltica 2” infrastructure is part of a larger project of transboundary scale – the EU Trans-European Transport Network development, linking railway infrastructure of Baltic States with Poland and other parts of western Europe. Taking into account the provided initial information about the territories in Latvia which will be crossed by the Rail Baltica 2 railway line and due to the fact that some territories in Latvia and Lithuania are characterized by complicated geological conditions (these territories can be affected by contemporary geological processes such as karst process) we intend to participate in the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures of the Project.

Taking into account that the construction of the Rail Baltica 2 railway line in Latvia could cause effects on the groundwater and ground in the frontier border territory of Lithuania we propose to provide in the EIA report information about the possible impacts on the groundwater (hydrogeological conditions, hydrodynamic regime, hydrogeochemical composition of groundwater) and on the characteristics of the soil (seismic data and soil liquefaction potential) of the territory of Lithuania.

Taking the opportunity we would like to inform that the spatial plan for Kaunas – Lithuanian and Latvian border has been initiated and the formal notification in accordance with Article 7 of the Directive 2001/42/EB on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment will follow in the nearest future.

Taking these circumstances into account, we would like to propose at your earliest convenience to hold a consultation meeting of interested Latvian and Lithuanian authorities to

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discuss the current status of the project and further actions in relation to the coordination of the border crossing point, transboundary EIA, spatial planning and transboundary SEA in order to ensure smooth and successful implementation of the project. We propose to hold this meeting last week of March (week 14) in Vilnius, however please feel free to propose other date or venue more suitable for you.

We count on our successful cooperation in environmental protection and in particular – in the field of environmental impact assessment.

Yours sincerely,

Algirdas Genevičius
Vice-Minister



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