



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE

To the Point of Contact for the Espoo
Convention in Latvia
Environment State Bureau of the
Republic of Latvia
pasts@vpvb.gov.lv

Our ref 19.04.2024 6-3/24/1957-2

Regarding the municipal designated spatial plan and
strategic environmental assessment for the Valga
Municipality

On 18 December 2023 Estonia informed (letter no 7-15/23/5978) Latvia concerning the municipal designated spatial plan and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure in Valga rural municipality near the Estonian-Latvian border area.

Hereby Estonia would like to inform Latvia that the initial positions for pre-selection of a location for the municipal designated spatial plan of wind farms of Valga rural municipality and its SEA programme has been prepared and translated into English (enclosed to this letter). Valga Rural Municipality Government is arranging public display of the documents from 30 April to 29 May 2024 on the website <https://www.valga.ee/tuulepargi-eriplaneering> (in Estonian) and also in several locations in Valga rural municipality.

Public discussions of the documents will take place on 16 May 2024 at 18:00 Tsirguliina Public House (Nooruse Street 1, Tsirguliina village) and on 27 June 2024 at 14:00 in Valga Military Museum (Pikk Street 16, Valga city) and at 18:00 in Tsirguliina Public House.

Estonia kindly asks Latvia to respond by 14 June 2024 at the latest (e-mail: info@kliimaministeerium.ee) and:

- indicate whether Latvia intends to participate in the SEA procedure of the spatial plan;
- provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the spatial plan on your territory;
- submit the comments you might receive from the public and authorities in your country regarding the initial positions and SEA programme.

On 25 October 2023, Valga Rural Municipality Council initiated municipal designated spatial plan for wind farms and its SEA. The purpose of the spatial plan is to find the most suitable locations for building wind farms and the necessary infrastructure for their operation and then determine building rights in selected locations. The spatial plan will be created in a level of accuracy that allows to continue the further planning of wind farms with design specifications after the spatial plan is brought into effect.

The size of the planning area is approximately 7400 hectares (initially it was planned to cover 10 200 hectares, but the area was reduced by the decision of Valga Rural Municipal Council). The planning area covers Mustimetsa, Killinge, Kiviküla, Uniküla, Õruste, Tölliste and Sooru villages in Valga rural municipality. The planning area is adjacent to the territory of the Republic of Latvia and therefore, it is likely that the implementation of the spatial plan may cause transboundary significant environmental impact.

Simultaneously with the preparation of the spatial plan a SEA of the planned activity is carried out. SEA programme gives an overview of the existing environment and the scope, methodology and studies of the impact assessment. SEA programme is the scoping documentation that serves as guidelines for the further preparation of the SEA report. Initial positions means a document that is created as part of spatial planning proceedings and in which the need for and the purpose of creation of the plan is described and the tasks the plan aims to fulfil, proposes a preliminary timetable for creation of the plan and provides an overview of the surveys required for and of the persons to be invited to participate in creation of the plan. According to timetable it is expected that public display of the draft resolution of pre-selecting the location and the SEA report will take place presumably in April 2025.

The authority arranging the creation of the spatial plan is Valga Rural Municipality Government and the spatial plan is brought into effect by a resolution of the Valga Rural Municipality Council. More information about the spatial plan (including the map of the location area of the spatial plan) can be found on the website <https://www.valga.ee/tuulepargi-eriplaneering> (in Estonian). In case of additional questions concerning the spatial plan in question, please contact Valga Rural Municipality Government (lenna.hingla@valga.ee).

Sincerely Yours,

(signed electronically)
Birgit Parmas
Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

Enclosure: Initial positions for pre-selection of a location for the municipal designated spatial plan and SEA programme

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