



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE

To the Points of Contact for the Espoo
Convention in Finland, Latvia, Lithuania
and Sweden

Our ref 22.10.2024 6-3/24/4624-2

Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)
regarding the offshore wind farm in areas Saare 2.1
and Saare 2.2 in the Baltic Sea

As the Party of origin, Estonia is hereby sending a notification in accordance with Article 3 of the
Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the
project plan by the developer Deep Wind Offshore (hereinafter *the developer*) to construct an
offshore wind farm, along with hydrogen production and algae cultivation, in areas Saare 2.1 and
Saare 2.2 in the Baltic Sea.

Description of the projects

The developer intends to construct an offshore wind farm in the Baltic Sea in two areas, Saare 2.1
and Saare 2.2 (a schematic map illustrating the location of the projects is enclosed in Annex 1).
These areas are adjacent to each other, and the projects are anticipated to have similar
environmental impacts. Therefore, the environmental impact assessment (hereinafter *EIA*)
procedures for Saare 2.1 and Saare 2.2 areas have been merged. In addition to the wind farm, the
developer also plans to construct facilities for hydrogen production and algae cultivation in
Saare 2.1 and Saare 2.2 areas.

The proposed offshore wind farm in the Saare 2.1 area will consist of up to 104 wind turbines with
a total capacity of up to 1560 MW and up to 4 substations. The planned maximum power of one
wind turbine is up to 25 MW, and the maximum height above average sea level is up to 365 meters.
Additionally, it is planned to construct up to 4 hydrogen production platform, along with necessary
production facilities, and up to 6 algae cultivation facilities in the Saare 2.1 area. The planned area
of the Saare 2.1 site is 163,8 km².

The proposed offshore wind farm in the Saare 2.2 area will consist of up to 56 wind turbines with
a total capacity of up to 840 MW and up to 2 substations. The planned maximum power of one
wind turbine is up to 25 MW, and the maximum height above average sea level is up to 365 meters.
Additionally, it is planned to construct up to 2 hydrogen production platform, along with necessary
production facilities, and up to 6 algae cultivation facilities in the Saare 2.2 area. The planned area
of the Saare 2.2 site is 88,5 km².

The proposed activity may have a transboundary impact on various aspects, including marine water quality, marine mammals, and fish and bird populations. Therefore, as the decision-maker responsible for development consent, the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority has requested the Ministry of Climate to notify potentially affected parties.

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure

On 28 March 2024, the developer submitted applications to the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority for superficities licences for areas Saare 2.1 and Saare 2.1. On 16 April 2024, the latest supplemented applications were submitted. The main documents of the supplemented applications for areas Saare 2.1 and Saare 2.2 are enclosed in Annexes 2 and 3.

According to the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act (hereinafter *the Act*), the decision-maker will determine whether to initiate an EIA based on the application for the development consent. The Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority initiated the procedure for the superficities licence in the area Saare 2.1, along with an EIA, on 18 September 2024 (decision number 1-7/24-321; enclosed in Annex 4). Similarly, the procedure for superficities licence in the area Saare 2.2 area, along with an EIA, was initiated on 24 September 2024 (decision number 1-7/24-329; Annex 5). Given the close proximity of the areas and the shared developer for both projects, the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority decided to merge the environmental impact assessment procedures.

As stipulated by the Act, following the initiation of the EIA, the leading expert or an expert group under the supervision of the leading expert will prepare an EIA programme (scoping document). The decision-maker will seek opinions from all relevant authorities regarding the content of the EIA programme and will organize its public display and public hearing. After considering the opinions received during this process, the developer will submit the EIA programme to the decision-maker for verification of compliance with the requirements.

Subsequently, based on the EIA programme declared compliant, the EIA report will be prepared. The EIA report stage involves procedures similar to those in the programme stage.

When making a decision to grant or refuse to grant development consent, the decision-maker will take the results of the EIA and the environmental measures outlined in the EIA report into account. This also includes, where relevant, the results of transboundary consultations.

If the affected Party intends to participate in the EIA procedure, the draft of the EIA programme and EIA report will be forwarded to the affected state. Consultations are commenced regarding the environmental impact resulting from the proposed activity and environmental measures to be taken

Answer to the notification

Kindly send the answer to this notification to the Ministry of Climate (info@kliimaministeerium.ee) by 23 December 2024 and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification;
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the EIA procedure for the offshore wind farm projects;
- provide possible comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the projects affecting your country.

Bilateral Agreement between Estonia and Finland

In relation to the Agreement between Estonia and Finland on environmental impact assessment in a Transboundary Context, we would like to draw Finland's attention to the 13th meeting of the joint Commission on EIA. During this meeting, the Commission discussed the EIA notification practice between the countries and proposed to continue following the existing practice. However, in justified cases, Finland has the option to decide whether to participate in the specific EIA procedure at the EIA programme stage

Contacts information

- Developer: Deep Wind Offshore – Mr. Hans Petter Øvrevik, hpo@deepwindoffshore.com
- Devision-maker: Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority – Ms. Carmen Tau, carmen.tau@ttja.ee
- Transboundary EIA procedure: Ministry of Climate – Ms. Lilli Tamm, lilli.tamm@kliimaministeerium.ee

Sincerely Yours,

(signed electronically)

Birgit Parmas

Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

Enclosures:

- Annexes 1 – map
- Annex 2 – superficies licence application for area Saare 2.1
- Annex 3 – superficies licence application for area Saare 2.2
- Annex 4 – EIA initiation decision for area Saare 2.1
- Annex 5 – EIA initiation decision for area Saare 2.2

List of recipients (Points of Contact):

- Finland: Finnish Environment Institute, transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi, kirjaamo@syke.fi
- Latvia: Environment State Bureau of Latvia, pasts@vpvb.gov.lv
- Lithuania: Ministry of Environment, vitalijus.auglys@am.lt, beata.vilimaite-silobritiene@am.lt
- Sweden: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, espoo@swedishepa.se, richard.kristoffersson@swedishepa.se

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