



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

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May 21, 2020 No 7-12/20/1786-3

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Estonia
keskkonnaministerium@envir.ee

**Regarding the notification on environmental impact assessment
in a transboundary context
concerning the Kiusumetsa sand quarry
initiated by AS YIT Eesti**

Environment State Bureau (hereinafter – the Bureau), acting as a competent authority on environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – EIA) in Latvia would like to thank the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Estonia for sending notification about the initiation of the EIA procedure concerning the Kiusumetsa sand quarry extraction initiated by AS YIT Eesti close to the Estonian-Latvian border.

The Bureau acknowledges receipt of the notification No 7-12/20/1786-3 dated on May 21, 2020.

Having assessed comments and opinions received from stakeholders – State Environmental Service, Nature Conservation Agency and Salacgriva county, – the Bureau concludes that there are several aspects that need to be carefully assessed and taken into account, especially because of the close vicinity to the common border where specially protected nature territory – North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve of Latvia is situated. Nevertheless, Nature Conservation Agency is of an opinion that significant negative impacts can be avoided if substantial changes in the hydrological regime are prevented and measures are taken to mitigate impacts on the landscape.

There are no densely populated areas close to the site of the planned activity, there is a low probability that local transboundary roads will be used for transportation, because the main network of local roads (from the planned extraction site) lead to transportation corridors in the territory of Estonia. The main impacts will be mostly linked to changes in the nature environment. Summarizing information provided by Nature Conservation Agency:

1. Specially protected nature territory – North Vidzeme Biosphere reserve is not designated as a Natura 2000 site of European significance. That is a national territory, divided into zones of different protection level – according to the nature values. Territory that is situated at the planned Kiusumetsa sand quarry extraction site is designated as a landscape protection zone, it is not in a close vicinity to internationally or nationally significant biocentre core zones.
2. The nearest Natura 2000 territories are nature reserve “*Kalna purvs*” which is located 3 km to the East and nature reserve “*Mērnīeku dumbrāji*” which is located 4,2 km to the Southwest from Kiusumetsa sand quarry.

3. The nearest European Union protected habitat 9080* *Fennoscandian deciduous swamp forest* (with the area of 0,8 ha) is located ~ 0,7 km to the Southwest from Kiusumetsa sand quarry.

Taking into account the abovementioned, the Bureau informs that the Republic of Latvia does not intend to participate in the EIA process of Kiusumetsa sand quarry as affected party at this stage, but we kindly ask you to inform us about the findings of EIA, especially to inform us, if significant transboundary impact is determined or direct transportation routes are chosen in the territory of Latvia and North Vidzeme Biosphere reserve.

The main aspects of concern are substantial changes in the hydrological regime and impacts on the landscape, so measures for avoiding and mitigating these impacts in the territory of Latvia should be foreseen in EIA scoping process and EIA report. Other possible impacts of interest are dust emissions, transportation routes, groundwater and sand treatment wastewater discharge solutions and their impacts.

In conclusion we draw your attention that information about protected nature territories as well as specially protected habitats and species in the territory of the Republic of Latvia can be obtained in the natural data management system of Nature Conservation Agency "Ozols" that has a free public access version <http://ozols.daba.gov.lv/pub/>).

Sincerely yours,



Arnolds Lukševics

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