

Enerģētikas un vides aģentūra

Energy and Environment Agency

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The Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia

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Regarding the transboundary environmental impact assessment of the offshore wind farm in the Saare 2.1 and Saare 2.2 areas of the Baltic Sea, Estonia

The Energy and Environment Agency of the Republic of Latvia¹ (hereinafter – the Agency) would like to express gratitude to the Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia for the environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – the EIA) Programme² of the offshore wind farm in the Saare 2.1 and Saare 2.2 areas of the Baltic Sea (hereinafter – the Project).

We inform that public participation of the EIA Programme of the Project in Latvia was organized from 17 January 2025 until 28 February 2025. Information regarding the prepared EIA Programme of the Project and public participation options was published on the Agency's webpage³ and send directly to the various stakeholders considering the national procedure of the EIA in the transboundary context. Please be informed that the Agency has received response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, the Nature Conservation Agency, the State Environmental Service, the State Border Guard of the

¹ The Environment State Bureau, in accordance with Cabinet of Ministers order No. 1191 of 17 December 2024 on the reorganization of the Environment State Bureau and State Construction Control Bureau", reorganized as the Energy and Environment Agency by 01.02.2025.

² The Agency's registration No 5-05/192/2025 from 16.01.2025.

https://www.eva.gov.lv/lv/parrobezu-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-projekti/par-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-igaunijas-atkrastes-veja-elektrostaciju-parkam-21-un-22-apgabala-baltijas-jura

Republic of Latvia, the Kurzeme Planning Region. The Bureau has not received comments from the public.

Please find below comments received from authorities regarding the EIA Programme.

According to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the Project will not have a direct impact on the territory of the Republic of Latvia in terms of human health. Hence, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia has no comment or a proposal on the scope of the EIA of the Project in the context of transboundary impacts.

<u>The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia</u> considers that the EIA Programme includes sufficiently extensive studies related to the impact of the planned action on fish resources. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia concludes that the comments expressed during public information process of the notification stage of the Project have been considered in the EIA Programme.

The Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia concludes that according to the Table 9-2. "Feedback from neighboring countries on the assessment of potential transboundary environmental impacts following the initiation of the EIA programme" of the EIA Programme, a proposal to establish a 2-nautical-mile safety zone between the shipping corridor and the offshore wind farm will be considered and impact on shipping traffic will be assessed in cooperation with the Estonian Transport Administration. According to the mentioned the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia concludes that the Estonian side is currently evaluating the proposals of the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia. In view of the above, the Ministry of Transport will be able to provide assessment after receiving information in the following EIA process of the Project.

<u>The State Environment Service</u> concludes that the EIA Programme of the Project contains the proposals of the Service regarding the assessment of potential transboundary impacts expressed during public information process of the notification stage of the Project. Thus, no further clarifications or additions to the EIA Programme of the Project would be necessary.

<u>The Nature Conservation Agency</u> as a competent authority on nature conservation of Republic of Latvia concludes:

- 1. The comments expressed during the public information process of the notification stage of the Project have been considered in the EIA Programme. The Nature Conservation Agency does not put forward any additional conditions or proposals.
- 2. The Nature Conservation Agency expresses its willingness to follow the process of this Project in order to be informed about the EIA process.
- 3. The Nature Conservation Agency asks the EIA Project to provide and foresee periodic monitoring and also points out that in terms of the Project's transboundary EIA, it is necessary to inform the Agency regarding the results of the monitoring assessment, including negative transboundary effects, if such are detected during the operation of the Project.

After evaluating the EIA Progamme, the Kurzeme Planning Region has no specific additions to the scope of the EIA of the Project. However, taking into account the

current situation, the Kurzeme Planning Region kindly asks to draw attention to the several aspects already expressed during public information process of the notification stage of the Project regarding the assessment of potential transboundary impacts, incl.

- 1. assessment of the potential cumulative (including transboundary) impacts of the offshore wind farm of Saare 2.1 and Saare 2.2 on the Baltic Sea territory and marine waters considering planned offshore wind farms.
- 2. assessment of the direct and long-term impacts of the Project on the areas of national defence and national security interests of the Republic of Latvia, indicating possible risks and / or handling of emergencies for the cooperation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia and the State Border Guard of the Republic of Latvia informed they had no comments or proposals for the EIA Programme of the Project.

Enclosures: 9 documents (files: *Ministry of Agriculture Saare 2.1. 2.2.pdf, State Border Guard Saare 2.1. 2.2.pdf, Ministry of Transport Saare 2.1. 2.2.pdf, Ministry of Health Saare 2.1. 2.2.pdf, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Saare 2.1. 2.2.pdf, Ministry of Interior Saare 2.1. 2.2.pdf, State Environmental Service Saare 2.1 2.2.pdf, Nature Conservation Agency Saare 2.1. 2.2.pdf, Kurzeme Planning Region 2.1. 2.2.pdf).*

Sincerely yours, Director

D.Avdejanova

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