

Notification of a preliminary draft plan or programme with potentially significant environmental impacts - Article 10 para. 1 of the SEA Protocol concerning the regulations issued under the Nuclear Energy Act

In accordance with Article 10, Paragraph 1 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (the SEA protocol) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessments in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) Finland hereby notifies the parties of the Espoo Convention on the regulations issued under the Nuclear Energy Act. Attached to this letter is a document containing information on the revision of the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority's (STUK) regulations and initiation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Information on regulations issued under the Nuclear Energy Act

The Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority's regulations will be revised as part of the overall revision of the Nuclear Energy Act (990/1987). These regulations will be issued under the new Act and will form part of the national nuclear safety regulations. In accordance with the Act on the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (1164/2022), the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority is responsible for promoting and supervising radiation safety and the safe use of nuclear energy. The regulations are issued in accordance with the Authority's remit. As part of the structural reform, the regulations will be amended in accordance with Article 80 of the Constitution of Finland, whereby the laws specifying the requirements issued by the Authority will be consolidated into regulations.

The starting point for the revision of the regulations is that the required level of safety and the top-level principles remain unchanged. Following the reform, the safety requirements should be less detailed and more technology-neutral, to avoid unnecessarily restricting the various applications of nuclear energy. Through the revision, the Radiation and Nuclear Authority aims to maintain the current level of safety in the use of nuclear energy, develop licensing and regulation that are more risk-informed, and enable the safe use of new technologies and business models. The Authority will issue 23 regulations under the Nuclear Energy Act. Transboundary impacts and their prevention are primarily related to regulations that impose requirements for the site selection, design requirements for facilities, safety demonstrations, management of radioactive discharges, and accident preparedness. The main content of these regulations is described in the attached document.

The SEA procedure

In Finland, the environmental impacts of certain types of plans and programmes must be assessed pursuant to the Act on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (200/2005, SEA Act). The regulations issued under the Nuclear Energy Act are considered to constitute the framework for decisions on the authorisation or approval of projects in accordance with Article 4 of the SEA Act, and the sector concerned is the energy supply sector within the meaning of paragraph 1 of the Article.



The environmental assessment under the SEA Act is carried out as part of the impact assessment of the regulations, in accordance with the Government's Impact Assessment Guidelines for Legislative Drafting (Government Publications 2022:66), where applicable. The environmental assessment is documented in the explanatory memoranda of the regulations.

Regulations considered likely to have significant transboundary environmental impacts are subject to consultation under the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment. Transboundary impacts are assessed by the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority in the same context as national impacts. The main objective of the regulations of the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority is to prevent the harmful effects of radiation. For this reason, the environmental impact assessment focuses particularly on this aspect. The assessment examines the effects of radiation on human health, living conditions and well-being, as well as on soil, water, air, climate, vegetation, biota and biodiversity. Additionally, it considers the impact on community structure, the built environment, landscape, cityscape and cultural heritage. When drafting each regulation, the potential impact of change is evaluated in relation to the current situation, with a particular focus on environmental and societal impacts.

Both the national and the international consultation will take place simultaneously in autumn 2025.

The Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority has prepared a consultation document describing the reform of the regulations issued under the Nuclear Energy Act and strategic environmental assessment. For more information, please contact Jussi Heinonen (Director, jussi.heinonen@stuk.fi until 18.7.2025) or Outi Slant (Lawyer, outi.slant@stuk.fi from 28.7.2025).

Participation in the procedure

Please send the response by email to the Register Office of the Finnish Environment Institute (kirjaamo@syke.fi) and transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi by **22 August 2025 at the latest** and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the preliminary notification,
- indicate whether your country is likely to be affected by the upcoming revision of regulations and wishes to participate in the consultation procedure,
- submit any observations concerning the attached document containing information on the initiation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the consultation on the Assessment

Please let us know if you would like to receive the draft environmental report in a language other than English. Please indicate our reference number **SYKE/2025/1436** in your response.

Head of Services

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p.p. Service Development Director

Heli Karjalainen

Senior Officer,
Point of Contact to the Espoo Convention
and the Protocol on SEA

Julianna Reunanen



This document has been electronically signed. The electronic signatures can be verified from the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute.

Distribution

Points of Contact regarding Notification

Attachment

Plan for environmental assessment of regulations issued under the Nuclear Energy Act in accordance with the Act on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

For information

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of the Environment
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

