Public hearing of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) programme for the offshore wind farm proposed for the Liivi 1 and 2 marine areas

22.07.2025

Start of the meeting: 16:00
End of the meeting: 17:21

Chairperson: Marko Pomerants
Minutes of meeting: Gertrud Einmann (OÜ Inseneribüroo STEIGER)

Participants:
Ignitis Renewables Estonia OÜ office, Tallinn, Narva Street 5: 11
Microsoft Teams 27

Agenda:
1. Introduction – Marko Pomerants (Powerhouse OÜ)
2. Transboundary EIA process introduction – Ilze Lielvalode (Latvian Energy and Environment Agency)
3. Introduction of the developer (Estonia Offshore Wind DevCo OÜ) and proposed activity for the Liivi 1 and 2 marine areas – Valentas Rutkauskas (UAB Ignitis Renewables), Marianne Deleuran Grunnet and Tobias Danz (Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners)
4. Presentation introducing the planned activity and EIA programme – Anna-Helena Purre (OÜ Inseneribüroo STEIGER)
5. Proposals, questions and objections regarding the proposed activity and EIA programme – all present at the public hearing

The meeting was held in English and translated to Latvian via consecutive interpreting.

Marko Pomerants (MP) introduced the meeting procedure, agenda and gave the word to Ilze Lielvalode (IL).

IL provided a short introduction to the transboundary EIA process, describing the differences of the process on Estonian and Latvian side, highlighting the public display and discussion dates and inviting people to voice their opinions by 31st of July 2025.

MP introduced the developers and gave the word over to them.

Valentas Rutkauskas (VR) provided an overview about the developer Estonia Offshore Wind DevCo OÜ, which is a joint venture between Ignitis Renewables and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners. VR introduced the areas of activities of UAB Ignitis Renewables.
Marianne Deleuran Grunnet (MDG) continued with explaining the background of Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and its area of activities.

Tobias Danz (TD) provided an overview of the proposed activity for the Liivi 1 and 2 offshore areas, describing the capacity, location and screening criteria for the development area, design of the offshore wind farm and its electricity export cable as well as their recommended and mandatory conditions. TD also provided an overview of the progress of the EIA process so far and next steps ahead. In addition, he described the parties of the EIA.

MP gave the word over to Anna-Helena Purre (AHP) to introduce the EIA programme of the planned activity.

AHP introduced the expert group involved and added details to what TD explained about the proposed location and planned activity. She briefly outlined the potential environmental impacts, which will be studied in more detail during the environmental impact assessment, described study methods and details.

Topics covered in the presentation:
1) Location of the proposed activity and basic information from the superficies license applications.
2) Description of the proposed activity and its alternatives which include differences in the size, number and location of wind turbines and offshore substations, different foundations, offshore export cable routes and landing points, substations, time strategies for installation of the wind turbines and connection of the grid.
3) Assessment methodology and mitigation measures.
4) EIA topics and likely affected environment:
   seabed sediments and geology; coastal and marine processes; hydrodynamics (wind, waves, currents and sea ice), seawater quality, suspended solids and pollution spread; seabed habitats and biota; fish and fish stocks; marine mammals; birds; mammals (bats and seals); noise (including low-frequency) and underwater noise impacts and vibrations; impact on protected natural sites; impact on areas included in the Natura 2000 network (Natura Appropriate Pre-Assessment results); impact on national defence facilities, maritime surveillance and ESTER data links; impact on aviation (including helicopters); impact on navigation and maritime safety; UXOs; possible environmental accidents; underwater archaeology; visual impact assessment, socio-economic impact and impact on human health, property and well-being; impact on climate; impact on waste generation; cumulative impact; transboundary impact.

MP asked the audience to submit their questions in the Microsoft Teams chat.

Jānis Pauliņš (JP) asked (via Microsoft Teams chat) if the project has a mechanism for halting or dismantling the offshore wind power plants if the environmental impact proves to be harmful, based on global climate change in the world.

VR answered that it's the whole essence of doing EIA to make sure that once the offshore wind farm is installed, constructed and operating, it doesn't have excess negative impacts to the environment and it's within the allowed limit prescribed in the EIA report.

MP asked what happens after the lifetime of the wind farm is over.

VR answered that there are different strategies, one of them being repowering of the offshore wind farm with reusing some of the components and installing new turbines. At the complete end of life of the wind farm the equipment would be removed from the site and brought to land for recycling and reusing. Mostly they're metal components. Only some components could remain offshore, but that's subject to further assessment later.

MP informed that there's two questions from Lauris Laicāns (LL) (via Microsoft Teams chat):

1) To assess visual impact, a visualisation and a zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) analysis of the offshore wind farm will be carried out from the nearest land-based points on Latvia (Kolka village). When it will be available?
2) 400 m high wind turbines. From sea level?

AHP answered the first question that the studies will be conducted between years 2025 and 2027 and the results will be provided within the EIA report at the end of 2027 or 2028. Due to different criteria and impacts affecting the location and amount of wind turbines, this study will be conducted in the last stages.

VR answered the second question from LL that 400 meters will be the maximum height of the wind turbine from the sea level, so from the water until the highest point of the wind turbine. VR added that since the project would be operational around 2035, the possible technical development of offshore wind turbines has been considered, since currently the highest turbines are around 260 meters from the sea level.

MP said that there are additional questions from Dace Strode (DS) (via Microsoft Teams chat):

1) Did I understand correctly that a new EIA procedure will be applied to the dismantling of the park?
2) Is the approximate operational life of the submarine cables known?

AHP answered that the current EIA will look into both the construction, work as well as dismantling.

VR answered the second question of DS that the operational life of submarine cables would be defined during the design phase to align with the design life of the whole offshore wind park. Currently expected operational lifetime could be somewhere between 25 to 35 years.

AHP added to the dismantling question that in the current EIA as much as possible will be analysed, but since there will be a separate dismantling project at the end of the wind park's lifetime, then probably a separate EIA will be initiated.

MP asked that since all the written questions were answered, if anyone had any additional oral comments. No questions were raised, and MP gave the final word to IL.

IL thanked everyone who asked questions as well as the team for the presentation and their answers. She gave a reminder for Latvian institutions and inhabitants to submit their comments, opinions and observations until the 31st of July. A link was shared in the Microsoft Teams chat where the comments should be sent (Atkrastes vēja parku "Liivi 1" un "Liivi 2" būvniecība Rīgas jūras līcī, Igaunija | Enerģētikas un vides aģentūra). She informed that minutes of this meeting will be published hopefully by the 11th of August on the website of Latvian Energy and Environment Agency. In addition, their comments and opinions about the EIA will be shared.

MP thanked the translators Inguna Bekere and Anda Zarina for their work during this meeting as well as everyone who participated. He concluded the meeting.

Marko Pomerants
Chairperson

Gertrud Einmann
Minutes of meeting

Participants

Tallinn office:
Marko Pomerants
Heddy Klasen
Tobias Danz
Valentas Rutkauskas
Marianne Deleuran Grunnet
Anna-Helena Purre
Aadu Niidas
Elo Võrk
Elo Ellermaa
Gertrud Einmann
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Online:
Katrīna Laura Zariņa
Anda Zarina
Inguna Bekere
Janis Pauliņš
Ilze Rudzīte
Ilze Lielvalode
Ilze Sabule
Agnese Krauze
Dace Strode
Ilze Urtāne
Alise Ozoliņa
Lilli Tamm
Zane Timma
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