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State Environmental Service of the Republic of Latvia

Rūpniecības iela 23, Rīga, LV-1045, Latvia, phone +371 67084200, e-mail pasts@vvd.gov.lv, www.vvd.gov.lv

Rīgā

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The Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia

info@kliimaministerium.ee

cc: Ms. Birgit PARMAS

espoo@kliimaministerium.ee

Regarding the municipal designated spatial plan and strategic environmental assessment for the Valga Municipality

The State Environmental Service of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – the Service) would like to express gratitude to the Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia for sending the results of the strategic environment impact assessment (hereinafter – the SEA) of the municipal designated spatial plan for the Valga Municipality (hereinafter – the Planning document).

According to the national legislation and bilateral cooperation regarding public participation process, the term for the process of public participation in Latvia was determined from 11 November 2025 until 12 December 2025. Information regarding the SEA report of the Planning document and public participation options was published on the webpage¹ and the local newspaper “Ziemeļlatvija” (the Edition of 11 November 2025) as well as sent to the various authorities considering the national procedure of the SEA in the transboundary context.

Please be informed that the Service 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, “Augstsprieguma tīkls” JSC (transmission system operator in the Republic of Latvia), the Nature Conservation Agency, the State Centre for Defense Military Sites and Procurement, and State Joint Stock Company “Latvian State Radio and Television Centre. The Service has not received comments from the public.

“Augstsprieguma tīkls” JSC informs that the wind turbine locations indicated in the report are situated at a distance greater than the turbines’ maximum height (including rotor blade length) plus an additional 10 metres from the existing 330 kV and 110 kV overhead transmission lines.

Nature Conservation Agency notifies that:

1. Upon reviewing the prepared translation, we found several significant inconsistencies. The translation mentions species that are not found in Latvia and Estonia. There are several instances in the text where the terminology, essence of the translation, and context do not correspond to the original document, which may affect the correct interpretation of the

¹<https://www.eva.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/pazinojums-par-valgas-novada-teritorijas-planojuma-strategisko-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-igaunija>

information.

2. Connectivity of capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) habitats – the measures listed in Annex 5 are supported, including the establishment of buffer zones around green corridors and capercaillie habitats to ensure their connectivity.
3. Protection of migratory birds – Wind power station (WPS) turbines are planned to be switched off during peak migration periods: 1–20 October (autumn migration) and 15 March–15 May (spring migration). These periods should be reviewed based on monitoring results.
4. SOD systems – Wind power stations should be equipped with shut-down-on-demand systems to reduce collision risks not only for migratory birds but also for birds of prey and the black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), which often forage at considerable distances from their nests.
5. The Agency would also like to see the future results of research and monitoring on the impact and cumulative risks of the planned wind farm.

All other authorities informed the Service that they have reviewed the documentation received and have no comments or additions regarding the transboundary impact assessment.

The Service kindly asks to consider the above-mentioned opinions and comments in the Environmental report of the Planning document.

The Service would like to express its willingness to continue the successful bilateral cooperation that has been established in the field of strategic environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context.

Sincerely yours,
Director of Permitting Board

D. Kaleja

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CONTAINS TIME- STAMP

Evelīna Paegle
evelina.paegle@vvd.gov.lv