



SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

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Case number:
NV-02330-23

To the Point of Contact in:
Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Germany

Notification pursuant to Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the planned offshore wind farm “Herkules” in Sweden’s economic zone

According to article 3 point 1 of the Espoo Convention, affected countries shall be notified and consulted on projects that are likely to cause transboundary environmental impacts. As a party of origin, Sweden hereby notifies Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Germany about the plans to develop the offshore windfarm (OWF) “Herkules”, located within Sweden’s economic zone (SEZ) in the Baltic Sea.

Information on the project

The developer, *Simply Blue Group*, plans to investigate the possibility to establish an OWF in the SEZ approximately 60 kilometres southeast of the island *Gotska sandön*, Sweden. The so-called *Hoburgs bank* and *Midsjöbankarna* Nature 2000 areas are located 22 kilometres from the project area for OWF Herkules.

The project area spans 1 078 square kilometres and has a varying sea depth of 107 – 224 metres. The maximum total height of the wind turbines is estimated to be 360 metres and they will be anchored with floating foundations that, in turn, are moored to the seabed. OWF Herkules is estimated to consist of up to 121 wind turbines with a total installed capacity of 2,4 GW and an expected annual production of about 12,7 TWh.

The individual turbines within Herkules will be coupled via an internal cable network that transmits the produced energy to one or more offshore substations (OSS) where the electricity will be converted to a high voltage and transmitted to shore through one or more marine cables that are coupled to a landcable and in extension, the Swedish transmission grid. Another alternative is to connect Herkules OSSs to one of the offshore connection points proposed by *Svenska*

kraftnät, located on the border between the territorial water's boundary and the SEZ.

Application process

The construction and operation of wind turbines and associated projects in the SEZ, requires a permit from the Swedish Government in accordance with the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone Act (1992:1140). In a permit assessment under the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone Act, certain rules in the Swedish Environmental Code (1998:808) apply. Government approval is also required in accordance with the Continental Shelf Act (1966:314) for the developer to be allowed to place out cables on the continental shelf including both the internal network cables within the OWF as well as the marine cables from the OWF to the shore.

Comments received during the consultation process will be compiled and included in a consultation report. The consultation report is used in the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and will be added as an attachment when the application is submitted.

Participating in the transboundary EIA-procedure

Referring to Article 3.3 of the Espoo Convention, Sweden kindly asks that potential comments are submitted **no later than the 26th of April 2023** and for you to:

1. acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
2. indicate, whether your country intends to participate in the EIA procedure,
3. provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project on your territory, and
4. submit any comments received from the public in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Germany.

Kindly send the answer to this notification by e-mail to:

registrator@naturvardsverket.se. Please indicate case number: NV-02330-23 and "Herkules" in your answer.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Elin Andersen
Head of Unit

Richard Kristoffersson
Point of Contact for the
Espoo Convention

Attachments

Scoping report (Available in Swedish, English, and Polish)

Appendix 1. Proposed Consultation Group (Available in English and Polish)

Cc

Sandra Jalalian and Astrid Öfverholm at the Ministry of Climate and Enterprise