



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

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Riga

17.04.2024 No. 5-05/557/2024

Ref. to: 13.03.2024. Case number NV-02449-24 “*Kapheira*”

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

registrator@naturvardsverket.se

Regarding the transboundary environmental impact assessment of the planned offshore wind farm “*Kapheira*” in Sweden's exclusive economic zone between Gotland and the Swedish mainland

The Environment State Bureau (hereinafter – the Bureau), acting as a Point of Contact regarding Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (hereinafter – the Espoo Convention) of Latvia and the competent authority on the environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – the EIA) in Latvia, would like to express gratitude to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for information sent concerning the planned offshore wind farm “*Kapheira*” in Sweden's exclusive economic zone between Gotland and the Swedish mainland (hereinafter – the Project) with reference to Article 3 of the Espoo Convention.

The Bureau hereby acknowledges the receipt of the notification and prepared documentation. Please be informed that the Bureau published received information regarding the Project on the Bureau`s webpage¹ on 18 of March 2024 and sent information directly to the involved authorities. The Bureau received opinions and comments regarding the Project and its potential transboundary impacts within the scope of competence from the Ministry of the Environment Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of the Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of the Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, the State Environmental Service. The Bureau has not received comments from the public.

More detailed comments were received from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, and the State Environmental Service.

¹<https://www.vpvb.gov.lv/lv/parrobezu-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-projekti/atkrastes-veja-parka-kapheira-buvnieciba-baltijas-jura-zviedrijas-ekskluzivaja-ekonomiskaja-zona>

- The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia shared opinion that due to the distance of the planned offshore wind farm “*Kapheira*” to the coastal territory of Latvia, the Project will not have negative impact on the human health.
- In the view of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia the construction of the planned offshore wind farm “*Kapheira*” will not have a direct negative impact on the defence interests of the Republic of Latvia.
- The State Environmental Service noted that the document “*Consultation documentation*”² provides assessment on the potential impacts on the surrounding flora and fauna (including fish, bats, birds, etc.), landscape, cultural heritage, recreational resources, fisheries, etc. from which the State Environmental Service concludes that no significant environmental impacts are expected on the territory of Latvia and the exclusive economic zone of the Baltic Sea.

Other authorities had no comments concerning the protentional transboundary impacts as well as scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the Project.

The Bureau has gathered and evaluated opinions expressed by all above mentioned authorities regarding necessity of entering into transboundary consultations. The Bureau agrees with estimation that Latvia is not likely to be affected to such an extent that would require participation in the EIA of the Project as an affected country under the Espoo Convention.

Though Latvia does not intend to take part in the transboundary consultation process as an affected party, we kindly ask the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to inform us about the findings of transboundary impact, especially if negative impacts on the environment are possible in the territory of Latvia, and the results of the EIA of the Project.

Yours sincerely,

Daiga Avdejanova (signature*) Director of the Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

**Document is sign with secure electronical signature*

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² Full title “*Consultation documentation in preparation for the application of a permit to construct, operate and decommission the Kapheira wind farm, along with its associated internal cable network, hydrogen production, and the installation of pipelines within the operational area.*”