



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

*Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia*

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**Espoo focal point:**

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**Regarding the notification of the proposed wind farm**

Environment State Bureau (hereinafter – the Bureau), acting as the competent authority on environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – EIA) in Latvia, confirms receipt of the notification that was sent about the proposed wind farm near the border of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – the Project). The Project is planned in Akmenē district, ~ 800 m from the common border.

Having evaluated information about The Project we conclude, that more additional wind turbines are planned in close vicinity to other proposed wind farms that are planned in Akmenē district at the border with the Republic of Latvia. We have already expressed our serious concerns about the mutual and cumulative impacts wind parks can have on the environment. Taking into account the close vicinity to the border with the Republic of Latvia, mutual and cumulative impacts as well as relevant aspects of the current state of the environment that can be affected by The Project (also in cumulation with other wind farms), Latvia strongly believes that the proposed activity will cause significant impact on the environment and intends to participate in the transboundary EIA.

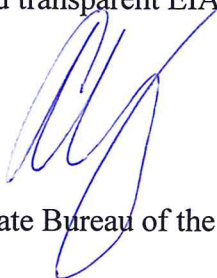
Major installations of the harnessing of wind power for energy production is an activity that is likely to cause significant adverse impact. Wind parks have negative impacts on birds, bats and landscape. In addition, there are such negative impacts as the flickering effect, noise, including low frequency noise, impacts on aviation, radar and navigation equipment signals, and all those impacts are cumulative, if more wind parks are planned close to each other. That is why wind parks are included in Appendix I of the UN Convention *on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context* (Espoo Convention) and Annex II of the Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council *on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment*.

Thresholds for the significance of impacts is regulated by national legislation of the Republic of Latvia (Annex I, point 26.<sup>1</sup> of the law “*On Environmental Impact Assessment*”). According to the law, EIA shall always be applied to wind parks if their capacity exceeds 15 MW or if there are more than 15 wind turbines installed (whichever criterion is met first). The capacity of the Project

exceeds the power capacity criteria, and since those wind turbines are planned at the border of the Republic of Latvia, we consider it necessary to provide an equal opportunity for the Latvian public to participate in an open and transparent EIA and decision-making process.

Sincerely yours,

Arnolds Lukšēvics  
Director of Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned to the right of the name and title.

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