



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 a 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 Akmeņe district, Kruopiai Ward, Šapnagiai village, approximately 1,7 – 3km from the border of the Republic of Latvia.

Having assessed the notification, we conclude that The Project is planned as a wind park consisting of 5 wind turbines 4,8 MW each. Latvia has not received information about projects of similar nature in the vicinity of The Project site, such information is not included in the screening documentation as well. Therefore, we conclude that there are no cumulative impacts expected with other wind farm projects.

During the consultation phase of The Project we received comments and opinions regarding the possible impacts on the environment from Environmental Service, Nature Conservation Agency and Auces County (the bordering municipality). The bordering municipality has expressed concerns about the possible impacts on the local territory and inhabitants, other institutions have evaluated the distance as sufficient for avoiding significant direct impacts. Nevertheless, such impacts as the flickering effect and low frequency noise, as well as impact on the aviation and landscape can affect territories in a greater distance and cannot be avoided completely.

The Bureau agrees with the opinion of Environmental Service and Nature Conservation Agency, considering that there are no significant direct transboundary impacts expected from the Project. However, we also understand and respect the concerns raised by Auces County. The Project foresees to build 5 major installations for the harnessing of wind power energy, the estimated heights is ~ 240 m and the total planned capacity ~ 25 MW. According to the Article 26<sup>1</sup> point 2 of the national law “*On Environmental Impact Assessment*”, if such wind park was planned in the territory of Latvia – EIA would be mandatory (EIA is mandatory for wind power plants with the total capacity exceeding 15 MW in Latvia).

Taking this into account – Latvia informs the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, that we do not intend to participate in the EIA procedure as an affected party at this stage, but – if such assessment will be applied, we kindly ask you to send us the related information and assessment results. We also kindly ask you to inform The Republic of Latvia about any changes or extensions of The Project, if such changes are planned.

Sincerely yours,

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



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