



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

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Riga

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Ref. to: Case number NV-07861-22

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
registrator@naturvardsverket.se

**Regarding the transboundary environmental impact assessment of
offshore windfarm project “Baltic Offshore Epsilon” in Sweden’s exclusive economic zone**

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, thanks the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for information sent concerning the offshore windfarm project “Baltic Offshore Epsilon” in Sweden’s exclusive economic zone with reference to Article 3 of the Espoo Convention.

The Bureau has gathered opinions expressed by various stakeholders and agrees with estimation that Latvia is not likely to be affected to such an extent that would require participation in the EIA and transboundary consultations under the Espoo Convention.

The Bureau informs that more detailed comment is provided by the Natura Conservation Agency that highlighted provided useful information on the impacts of offshore wind parks on mammalian populations, particularly porpoise populations, which are a critically endangered species in the Baltic Sea and planned additional studies on the impacts of the offshore wind park on bat migrations and feeding habits. The Natura Conservation Agency would like to get acquainted with the results of studies regarding the impacts of the offshore wind parks on birds, mammals, and bats. The Natura Conservation Agency informs about implementation of the project LIFE19 NAT/LV/000973 REEF “Research of marine protected habitats in EEZ and determination of the necessary conservation status in Latvia” (<https://reef.daba.gov.lv/>) that carries out scientific research in Latvia’s exclusive economic zone in the Baltic Sea and studies three areas in depth in order to include these territories in the network of marine protected areas and one of these protected pilot-territories “Zēgelnieku sēkļi” is located approximately 90 km from the offshore windfarm project “Baltic Offshore Epsilon”. In addition the Natura Conservation Agency pointed out the aspects that need to be given additional attention in the environmental impact assessment process like possible impact of excavation works/piling for

anchoring foundations during the construction process (possible opacity, the positioning and/or displacement of the excavated material and its impact on the seabed organisms), the formation of ice covering in the offshore wind park`s building area, potential effects of ice dynamics on mammalian reproduction, possible ecological traps and disturbance factors during the ice breaking process during the exploitation of the offshore wind park.

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.

Best regards,

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

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