

Points of Contact for Notification in
Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Germany,
Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden

Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding a nuclear power plant in Helsinki, Finland

Finland, as a Party of origin, hereby notifies your state of the planned project in accordance with Article 3, Paragraph 1 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). The planned project is listed in Appendix I of the Espoo Convention and is a nuclear power plant. In addition, the notification is sent in accordance with Article 7 of the Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU). With regard to Estonia, the notification is also subject to the provisions of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Finland on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

Information on the planned project

The developer, Helen Nuclear Ltd, is planning a nuclear power plant in Helsinki, Finland. The purpose of the plant is to produce either district heat or both district heat and electricity. The project examines small modular reactors based on light water reactor technology, including pressurised water reactors and boiling water reactors. Three alternative locations are being considered for the plant: Salmisaari, Vuosaari and Norrberget. Preliminary estimates indicate that a space requirement for a heating plant is approximately 12 hectares, and for a combined heat and power plant approximately 20 hectares. The planned operating life of the nuclear power plant is at least 60 years.

The following alternatives are included in the EIA programme phase:

- **VE0:** An alternative in which a nuclear power plant is not constructed.
- **VE1:** A heating plant is under consideration for the Salmisaari site. The plant would comprise up to 18 reactors, with a heat output of approximately 630 MWth and a district heat output of approximately 600 MW.
- **VE2a:** A heating plant is under consideration for the Vuosaari site. The plant would comprise up to 18 reactors, with a heat output of approximately 630 MWth and a district heat output of approximately 600 MW.
- **VE2b:** A combined heat and power plant is under consideration for the Vuosaari site. The plant would comprise one reactor, with a heat output of approximately 1,400 MWth, an electric power of approximately 500 MWe and a district heat output of approximately 700

MW. The alternative involves the establishment of new connections, including electricity transmission and a cooling water tunnel.

- **VE3a:** A heating plant is under consideration for the Norrberget site. The plant would comprise up to 18 reactors, with a heat output of approximately 630 MWth and a district heat output of approximately 600 MW. The alternative involves the establishment of new connections, including district heat transmission, electricity transmission, and roads and utilities.
- **VE3b:** A combined heat and power plant is under consideration for the Norrberget site. The plant would comprise one reactor with a heat output of approximately 1,400 MWth, an electric power output of approximately 500 MWe, and a district heat output of approximately 700 MW. The alternative involves the establishment of new connections, including district heat transmission, electricity transmission, a cooling water tunnel, and roads and utilities.

The preliminary assessment has identified the main impact categories of the project as impacts on water bodies during operation of the combined heat and power plant; impacts on nature during both construction and operation; impacts on land use; impacts on human health, living conditions and comfort; and impacts on the climate.

The EIA procedure assesses both the environmental impacts of the planned project within Finland and its potential adverse transboundary environmental impacts. The preliminary assessment indicates that the project is unlikely to result in significant transboundary impacts. Nevertheless, as part of the EIA procedure, an unlikely severe accident at the nuclear power plant is modelled and its potential impacts are assessed. The aim is to complete the EIA procedure by the end of 2027 and the nuclear power plant to start operating during the 2030s.

The construction of a nuclear power plant requires at least master planning and a detailed local plan based on it. Master planning is intended to begin after the consultation on the EIA programme phase. Detailed local planning will then be prepared for a single alternative area once the plant site has been selected. The procedures for land use planning will be subject to transboundary consultation, which will be conducted separately in accordance with the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

EIA procedure in Finland

The Act on Environment Impact Assessment Procedure (252/2017, EIA Act) and the Decree (277/2017) regulate the EIA procedure in Finland. The project complies with the EIA Act. According to the EIA Act, the Finnish Environment Institute is responsible for managing obligations under the Espoo Convention.

The nuclear safety requirements applicable to nuclear facilities are based on the Nuclear Energy Act (990/1987) and the Decree (161/1988). These are supplemented by regulations issued by the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) and by the requirements set out in the Regulatory Guides on nuclear safety and the Regulatory Guides on preparedness. The Radiation Act (859/2018) and the Decree (1034/2018) provides requirements for radiation safety. Land use planning is regulated by the Land Use Act (132/1999).

According to the EIA Act, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment acts as the competent authority when a project concerns a nuclear plant within the meaning of the Nuclear Energy Act.

The first phase of the EIA procedure involves preparing an EIA programme and organising a public consultation. The public display of the EIA programme of the project is expected to take place in Finland from 3 November 2026 to 4 January 2027. Within one month of the end of the public display, the competent authority prepares its statement on the EIA programme.

The next phase of the EIA procedure involves a preparation of an EIA report and a public consultation of the EIA report, which is prepared based on the EIA programme and the statement of the

competent authority. Following the public display period for the EIA report, the competent authority will prepare a reasoned conclusion based on the EIA report, as well as the statements and opinions provided during the consultation process. Both the EIA report and the reasoned conclusion are required for permit applications.

Participation in the EIA procedure

Finland has made the consideration to at least notify Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden.

An EIA programme is available in Finnish, Swedish and English, and an international consultation summary document is available in Danish, English, Estonian, German, Latvian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish and Swedish. These documents provide further information on the project, its alternatives, the EIA procedure, the planned content of the EIA and required permits. The documents can be downloaded from the following shared folder: <https://filesender.funet.fi/?s=download&to-ken=9b40cffc-c960-4a6f-b5b0-258236f38018>. The shared folder requires the following password: "vPC0PrJJVDDnzXzCPek60fvcTgaBNDObhwwafeWTrJw=". The shared folder expires on 16 November 2026.

Once the documents have been published on 3 November 2026 by the competent authority, they will also be available on the following webpages: tem.fi/helen-yva-ohjelma (in Finnish), tem.fi/sv/helen-mkb-program (in Swedish) and tem.fi/en/helen-eia-programme (in English).

A public meeting is scheduled to take place in the Maijansali of the Helsinki Central Library Oodi (Töölönlahdenkatu 4, 00100 Helsinki) on 16 November 2026 at 6 p.m. (Finnish time) onwards. Coffee will be served from 5.30 p.m. onwards. The meeting will be conducted mainly in Finnish and partially in Swedish. The event can be followed remotely. Further information will be available on the following webpages: <https://www.helen.fi/ydinvoima> (in Finnish) and <https://www.helen.fi/karnkraft> (in Swedish).

Referring to Article 3 Paragraph 3 of the Espoo Convention, please send the response by e-mail to the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute (kirjaamo@syke.fi) and to e-mail address of the Point of Contact in Finland (transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi) by **8 January 2027** at the latest and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
- indicate whether your state intends to participate in the EIA procedure,
- indicate the preferred document language,
- provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the likely significant environmental impacts of the planned project affecting your state, and
- submit any comments you might receive from the public and authorities in your state.

Please indicate our reference number **SYKE/2026/1146** in your letter.

More information

Competent authority: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Senior Specialist Venla Liljeström, venla.liljestrom@gov.fi

Espoo Convention: Finnish Environment Institute, Senior Officer Laura Aitala-Martesuo, transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi

Head of services

Jenni Juslén

Senior officer,
Point of Contact to the Espoo Convention
and the Protocol on SEA

Laura Aitala-Martesuo

This document has been electronically signed. The electronic signatures can be verified from the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute.

Appendices

Helen EIA Programme International consultation summary_da.pdf 1.6 MiB
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en_Helen Nuclear Ltd EIA programme.pdf 50.1 MiB
en_Appendix 1 International consultation summary.pdf 1.5 MiB
en_Appendix 2 Markings and regulations of the regional land use plans in Uusimaa.pdf 413.3 kiB
en_Appendix 3 Designations and planning regulations of VISIO plan.pdf 236.7 kiB

sv_Helen Karnkraft Ab MKB program.pdf 50.2 MiB
sv_Bilaga 1 Sammanfattning for internationellt samråd.pdf 1.5 MiB
sv_Bilaga 2 Beteckningar och bestämmelser i gällande landskapsplaner i Nyland.pdf 414.8 kiB
sv_Bilaga 3 Beteckningar och bestämmelser i VISION planen.pdf 236 kiB

fi_Helen Ydinvoima Oy ydinvoimalaitoksen ympäristövaikutusten arviointiohjelma.pdf 50.7 MiB
fi_Liite 1 Kansainvälisen kuulemisen yhteenvedoasiakirja.pdf 1.7 MiB
fi_Liite 2 Uudenmaan voimassa olevien maakuntakaavojen merkinnät ja määräykset.pdf 412.2 kiB
fi_Liite 3 VISIO-kaavan merkinnät ja määräykset.pdf 233.2 kiB

Send list

As per send list on the following page

For information

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Ministry of the Environment
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
Members of the Estonian-Finnish EIA Commission

Send list

Austria

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