



To the Points of Contact for the Espoo  
Convention in Finland, Latvia, Lithuania  
and Sweden

Our ref. *25* April 2023 No 16-3/22/2464- *20*

Updated information regarding the environmental  
impact assessment of Utilitas Wind OÜ Saare-Liivi  
offshore wind farm project in the Gulf of Riga

Hereby the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia would like to provide the concerned countries updated information regarding the environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure of Utilitas Wind OÜ Saare-Liivi (formerly known as „Saare-Liivi 5“) offshore wind farm project. Please be informed that the letter has been prepared in cooperation with the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority.

The developer Utilitas Wind OÜ is planning to establish an offshore wind farm in the Pärnu County maritime area in the Gulf of Riga. Therefore, the developer has on 18 February 2021 submitted an application for superficies licence to the decision-maker (i.e. issuer of development consent) Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority. The decision-maker has initiated the procedure for superficies licences, together with an EIA, by its decision No. 1-7/21-521 of 23 December 2021.

On 2 February 2022, by letter No. 16-3/21/1696-5, Estonia notified Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Finland concerning the Utilitas Wind OÜ Saare-Liivi offshore wind farm project. Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden indicated its wish to participate in the EIA procedure. The EIA programme of the project has been sent to the forementioned countries on 8 September 2022 by letter No. 16-3/22/2464-5. Considering the Agreement between Estonia and Finland on environmental impact assessment in a Transboundary Context and the arrangements agreed by the joint Commission on EIA, Finland has also expressed wish to participate in the EIA.

The decision-maker has made the decision to declare the EIA programme compliant on 22 December 2022. On the basis of the EIA programme that has been declared compliant, the EIA report is being prepared.

Now the decision-maker has informed the Ministry of the Environment about the following.

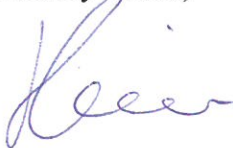
On 9 March 2023, by decision No. 1-7/23-063, the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority amended the 23 December 2021 decision No. 1-7/21-521 of initiating the project's superficies licence proceedings and EIA, and shifted the area planned to be encumbered in the public water body for the establishment of the Saare-Liivi offshore wind farm. The shift of the initial area and therefore, the amendment of the original decision has been applied by the developer. According

to Estonian legislation (Section 222(4) of the Water Act in force at the time of submission of the application for superficies licence), in the procedure for the issue of a superficies licence, relying mainly on the results of the conducted investigations and EIA, the encumbered area of a public water body may be shifted. On the basis of, inter alia, the primary results of the birdlife survey that has been conducted, it turned out to be necessary to shift the area as shown in the figure (see the enclosed Annex). Primary results of the birdlife survey have shown and confirmed the unsuitability of the southern part of the initial area of Saare-Liivi offshore wind farm for the development of wind farms.

According to the 9 March 2023 decision No. 1-7/23-063, the significant environmental impacts regarding the additional area of Saare-Liivi offshore wind farm will be assessed in the ongoing EIA procedure already initiated by 23 December 2021 decision No. 1-7/21-521. As part of the project's ongoing EIA procedure the developer must prepare a new (i.e. supplementary) EIA programme and if necessary a new EIA report in terms of the additional area. In other words, the developer has to decide whether to prepare two separate EIA reports or one EIA report that covers the entire area (i.e. initial and additional area). As soon as the preparation of the new EIA programme is completed, it will be sent to the concerned countries for commenting.

In case of additional questions regarding the application proceedings of the superficies licence and EIA of the project, please contact Ms Merilin Kraun, senior officer, Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority (+372 667 2039, [merilin.kraun@ttja.ee](mailto:merilin.kraun@ttja.ee)).

Sincerely Yours,



Kaupo Heinma  
Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

Annex: figure illustrating the shift of the area

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