



Energētikas un vides aģentūra

Energy and Environment Agency

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The Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia

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Regarding the environmental impact assessment report of the initial area of the offshore wind farm project “Saare - Liive” in the Gulf of Riga

The Energy and Environment Agency of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – the Agency) would like to express gratitude to the Ministry of Climate of the Republic of Estonia for information sent regarding the results of the environment impact assessment (hereinafter – the EIA) of the initial area of the offshore wind farm project “Saare - Liive” in the Gulf of Riga (hereinafter – the Project). The Agency hereby acknowledges receipt of the EIA report¹.

We inform that term for the process of public participation in Latvia was determined from 21 March 2025 until 22 April 2025. Information regarding the EIA report of the Project and public participation options was published on the Agency's webpage² and the local newspaper “Auseklis” (the Edition No 34 (10 925) of 21 March 2025) as well as sent to the various authorities considering the national procedure of the EIA in the transboundary context. Please be informed that we have received response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Smart Administration and Regional Development Ministry of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia in cooperation with the State Border Guard, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia in cooperation with State Joint Stock Company “Latvia State Radio and Television Centre” and the Maritime Administration of Latvia, the State Centre for Defence Logistics and Procurement,

¹ Received on 17 March 2025. Registration No 2.10/779/2025-S.

²<https://www.eva.gov.lv/lv/parrobezu-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-projekti/utilitas-wind-ou-juras-veja-elektrostatciju-parka-saare-liivi-ieprieks-saare-liivi-5-izbuve-rigas-juras-lici-igaunijas-republikas-teritorialajos-udenos>

the Nature Conservation Agency and the State Environment Service. The Agency has not received comments from the public.

The Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia has made no comments or proposals regarding the EIA report. However, the Ministry asked to inform regarding changes in the Project, any additional public participation activities, if such are planned, as well as regarding the impact on bird migration and the total cumulative impact, if such is detected during construction and operation of the planned wind farm.

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia considers that the Project will not have an impact on the territory of the Republic of Latvia in terms of human health. The Ministry has no additional comments on the EIA results in the context of transboundary impact assessment.

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia concluded that the EIA report contains sufficient information on the studies carried out and an assessment of the impact of the proposed action on fish resources as well as measures to mitigate the impact. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia has no additional comments on the EIA results.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, the State Centre for Defence Logistics and Procurement informed that authorities have no comments and proposals regarding the EIA report. The Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia informed that the State Border Guard has expressed the opinion that, possibly, the presence of a wind farm so close to the territorial sea of the Republic of Latvia may cause impact on operation of the Naval Forces radar system of the National Army Forces. We note that the Agency asked the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia to comment on this matter. The Ministry has provided a comment that subordinate institutions of the Ministry of Defence, including the National Armed Forces have found no impact on their radar.

According to the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia opinion, the planned wind farm is located in a significant distance from the infrastructure of the electronic communications network of Latvia; the State Joint Stock Company's "Latvia State Radio and Television Centre" services are not provided in the territory for the planned wind farm.

According to the Table 4.2-1 *Follow-up monitoring measures* of the Section 4.2 *Follow-up monitoring* of the EIA report, the expert group's proposal for a follow-up for environmental component *Navigation, radio communications* is that measurements of radio communication systems and automatic identification systems (hereinafter – AIS) should be carried out after the wind farm has been put into service to ensure that the required coverage is guaranteed and to determine the need to establish additional coastal radio stations or AIS base stations. The Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia indicates that it is necessary to supplement the EIA report with a condition that, if the necessary coverage of the AIS is not guaranteed, the project implementer shall perform additional construction of the coastal AIS base station for ensuring sufficient coverage in the area of responsibility of Latvia.

Considering that the EIA report (the Summary in Latvian) indicates that according to the AIS, the traffic of fishing vessels and other types of vessels in the area of the planned wind farm is low, as well as the likelihood of collisions between vessels and other vessels or turbines after the construction of the wind farm is very rare or unlikely (10 th LP), the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia kindly asks to provide further clarification on the proposal to establish a vessel traffic organization system for active traffic coordination (15 th LP), namely:

1. What is the purpose and necessity of the planned measure under conditions of low maritime traffic intensity?

2. Has it been assessed how the envisaged measures (for example, in the event of the creation of vessel traffic dividing zones) might affect existing or potential navigation in areas near the Latvian jurisdiction?

The Nature Conservation Agency informed that

1. Views and proposals submitted regarding the EIA Programme have been considered. The Nature Conservation Agency does not impose additional conditions.
2. The Nature Conservation Agency expresses its willingness to follow the development process of the Project in order to be informed about the information provided in the EIA process for the construction of the planned offshore wind farm.
3. The Nature Conservation Agency recommends foreseeing periodic monitoring, if the Project is accepted. It is necessary to inform the Latvian side about the results of the monitoring assessment, including negative transboundary impacts, if such are indicated.

The State Environment Service concluded that within the scope of its competence, there is no objection to the EIA report.

The Agency kindly asks to consider the above-mentioned opinions and comments in the final EIA report of the Project.

Enclosure: 6 documents (files: *Ministry of Smart Administration Regional Development_Saare Liivi.pdf*, *Ministry of Health Saare Liivi.pdf*, *Ministry of Agriculture Saare Liivi.pdf*, *Nature Conservation Agency_Saare Liivi.pdf*, *Ministry of Transport_Saare Liivi.pdf*, *Ministry of Interior_Saare Liivi.pdf*).

Sincerely yours,

Deputy Director,
Director of Department of Energy and Energy Efficiency

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CONTAINS TIME- STAMP

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