

To the Points of Contact for the Espoo Convention in Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden

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Information regarding the national designated spatial plan for a nuclear power plant with an electric capacity of 600 MW and the infrastructure necessary for its operation

Hereby Estonia is early informing countries regarding the initiation of creation of a national designated spatial plan (NDSP) together with strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for a nuclear power plant (small modular reactor/SMR; two reactors) with an electric capacity of 600 MW and the infrastructure necessary for its operation.

On 12 June 2024, the parliament of Estonia - Riigikogu - passed a resolution supporting the initiation of the process to introduce nuclear energy and establish the necessary legal and organizational framework.

On 22 May 2025, the Government of the Republic of Estonia initiated the creation of a NDSP and its SEA with the purpose to erect a nuclear power plant with an electric capacity of 600 MW and the infrastructure necessary for its operation, including their connection to the existing network (order No. 102). The NDSP is based on the application submitted by Fermi Energia AS; the proposed plant will consist of two BWRX-300 reactors, a small modular reactor technology developed by GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH). The planning area of the NDSP – i.e. area where the most suitable location for the nuclear power plant is being searched for – encompasses the territories of several local municipalities in Ida-Viru county and Lääne-Viru county and the sea area adjacent to them. The size of the planning area is approximately 1285 km². A map illustrating the planning area is enclosed.

According to the Planning Act, the purpose of a NDSP is to erect a construction work which has a significant spatial impact and whose chosen location or whose functioning elicits significant national or international interest. SEA is mandatory when creating a NDSP. The NDSP procedure consists of two main stages: pre-selection of a location (i.e. selecting the most suitable location for the envisaged construction work) and thereafter creating the detailed solution (i.e. determining the building rights of the envisaged construction work). As a result, an inclusive spatial solution will be created for the envisaged construction work. The authority arranging the creation of a NDSP is the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications; the NDSP is adopted by the Government of the Republic.

The letter is sent to the Espoo Convention's Baltic Sea subregion countries for early information sharing purposes. In addition, also Austria has been added in the list of recipients. The countries will be informed about the progress of the planning procedure in the next stages. As part of the pre-selection of a location stage, the initial positions for pre-selecting a location for the NDSP and the plan's SEA programme stage (i.e. scoping phase) will presumably take place in 2026. Based on the current schedule for creating the NDSP and carrying out the SEA, it is estimated that the adoption of the NDSP could take place in 2029.

In case of additional questions concerning the NDSP, please contact Ms Aili Tammaru (adviser, land use and spatial planning policy department, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications; e-mail: aili.tammaru@mkm.ee).

Sincerely Yours,

(signed electronically)
Eva Suurkaev
Acting as the Point of Contact for the Espoo Convention

Enclosure: map of the planning area of the NDSP

List of recipients (Points of Contact):

Austria: Ms Anna Eder, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, anna.eder@bmluk.gv.at Denmark: Ms Maria Birkholm Søndermark, Ministry of Green Transition, espoo@sgav.dk

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