

Public cross-border consultation on the environmental impact assessment report for the proposed activity -

Construction of the Valmiera - Valka wind park and associated infrastructure

Valmiera municipality, Plani parish and Valka municipality, Vijciems and Valka parishes

PROTOCOL

18 December 2024, 16:00 - 17:35

The meeting is held remotely by online videoconference.

Zoom link: <https://eu01web.zoom.us/j/68510742207?pwd=qMsXpOOv7ArbgTISZr5Y2Q6nmEwhh6.1>

The meeting is chaired by: Valdis Felsbergs, representative of Enviroprojekts Ltd

Meeting participants: Representative of the project developer *Latvijas vēja parki* Ltd, representatives of Enviroprojekts Ltd, the environmental consultancy company that prepared the environmental impact assessment (EIA) Report, experts (landscape, mammals, birds), the State Environmental Bureau (SEB), interested parties, total: 35 participants on the ZOOM platform (list of meeting participants available in Annex of the protocol).

Valdis Felsbergs, Enviroprojekts Ltd, starts the meeting and introduces participants with the purpose and format of the meeting. He introduces the participants of the meeting to the representatives of the project developer *Latvijas vēja parki* Ltd and the developers of the EIA Report Enviroprojekts Ltd.

Kristīne Eglīte, *Latvijas vēja parki* Ltd says opening words.

V. Felsbergs gives a presentation on the prepared EIA Report.

Lilli Tamm, Estonian Ministry of Climate, clarifies the deadlines for the procedure.

Participant 1 (A.Broks) asks - whether the Estonian Ministry of Defense has been informed and whether this project will affect the radars?

L.Tamm Estonian Ministry of Climate has sent the EIA Report to the Ministry of Defense.

Participant 2 (A.Bērziņa) asks - How the public opinion, the opinion and thoughts of the Estonian public are taken into account in the assessment of the cross-border impact? Have surveys been conducted on the Estonian side?

V. Felsbergs responds that all required actions have been taken by the Latvian side to inform the Estonian side and any opinions provided by the Estonian side will be considered.

L.Tamm adds that the report has been submitted to municipalities, all proposals will be sent back to the project developer. No population surveys will be conducted.

Participant 3 (Rene Reisner) asks - Has a discussion taken place on the Latvian side, if so, what topics were discussed?

V. Felsbergs responds that there has been a public opinion survey in Latvia on wind parks in general.

Līga Blanka, Enviroprojekts Ltd, informs that the public consultation for this wind park is currently underway (from November 12, 2024, to January 12, 2025). Meetings like this one, with the public and institutions, have already taken place.

V.Felsbergs adds that an initial public consultation took place a year ago, in addition to meetings with residents and working groups. Opponents on the portal manabalss.lv (“my voice . lv”) have collected several thousand votes against the wind park. The public in Latvia is concerned about the community fee, as well as noise and natural values – birds, bats, etc..

Participant 2 (Adele Bērziņa) adds that public survey results show that only 17% of Latvians support the construction of WPP parks in forests.

Participant 3 (Rene Reisner) asks – Was the cumulative impact assessment carried out, were the planned wind parks on the Estonian side also considered?

V.Felsbergs replies that all wind parks in the area, both in Latvia and Estonia, have been assessed. Monitoring requirements have been set at a national and international level - monitoring must be carried out uniformly. Bird expert has also assessed bird migration on a transnational basis. Other impacts are local and do not accumulate with Estonia.

Participant 4 (Valdis Jerums) asks - What could be the total noise value near the border and how can it affect residents. And has this noise been modelled for different wind directions? What is the cumulative effect? If the planned impact on animals was mentioned up to 10 km, what about the impact on people at this distance?

L. Blanka answers - the information was provided in the presentation, and this complies also with EIA Report, there is no noise impact in a transboundary context (EIA Report Summary in Estonian, chapter 4.2. Mūra- ja vibratsioonitase).

Participant 5 (Maiu) asks – Whether and to what extent the impact of infrasound on people and nature was considered?

V.Felsbergs replies that infrasound was also modeled separately, not only for the selected alternatives, but for the original 84 wind turbines. There are no regulatory acts for infrasound in Latvia, so low-frequency sounds were modeled in accordance with the Danish limit values, as there are no regulatory acts for infrasound in Latvia. The modeling results show that there are no risks of exceeding the limit values in Latvia or Estonia.

Environmental noise was also assessed according to the World Health Organization target values and there are no violations there either, they are stricter than the limit values set in Latvia. There are recommendations for individual houses in Latvia, but this does not affect Estonia.

Participants ask - Is written confirmation possible that infrasound will not affect the residents of Valka and Valga?

V. Felsbergs responds that the EIA is publicly available and is in writing, which the authors also confirm.

Participant 6 (Kert Lapimma) asks if infrasound will not affect people, then he wants to receive a written confirmation that the sounds will not affect residents, because on the Estonian side, residents have already experienced health problems from existing wind farms.

V. Felsbergs claims that there are various studies that infrasound can affect human health. But infrasound from this project will not reach Estonia.

K.Eglīte adds that the protocol may include a section on infrasound. Information is available also in EIA Report Summary in Estonian, chapter 4.2. Mūra- ja vibratsioonitase, subchapter “Madalsagedusliku mūra hindamine ja tähtsus”.

To the protocol we add additional material from the calculation of low-frequency noise of the WPPs, using the WindPro software with up-to-date data from WPP manufacturers on the latest models for which low-frequency noise measurements: see Annex here <https://ekos.enviro.lv:777/index.php/s/68Gxd9DA5fGrTyk>

(WindPRO 3.6.366 by EMD International A/S, Environment Ltd. licence (client) No 8797).

Participant 6 (Kert Lapimma) asks - On what basis the claim that infrasound will not reach Valga is based?

V. Felsbergs replies that it is based on modeling results.

Participant 6 (Kert Lapimma) asks - Does this show that the spread of infrasound will not exceed 5 km?

V.Felsbergs, referring to and showing the modeling results on a map, comments on the frequency distribution according to the strictest Danish standards (17 dB (A)), which is an extremely low sound pressure that owls can probably hear, but certainly not humans. They are talking about low - frequency sound up to 160 Hz.

Participant 6 (Kert Lapimma) comments and asks that low-frequency noise is from 20 to 200 Hz. Infrasound is from 0 to 20 Hz. Would you like to clarify where low frequencies appear and where infrasound?

V.Felsbergs replies that according to the Danish methodology low - frequency sound is up to 160 Hz. The modelled sound is 10-160 Hz, which also includes the infrasound range.

Participant 6 (Kert Lapimma) asks - Was sound below 10 Hz also modeled?

V. Felsbergs replies that low - frequency sounds were modelled according to the Danish methodology from 10 - 160 Hz, but the noise distribution range to Estonia is unreachable.

Participant 6 (Kert Lapimma) comments on the spread of sound and Saarde municipality, also asks - How is it possible that infrasound will not reach Estonia? Participant also asks for a personal signature that infrasound will not spread within the borders of Estonia.

V.Felsbergs replies that no impacts from low frequency sound are expected in Estonia but we will wait and review all scientific and validated material on what is happening in Saarde municipality until the end of the cross-border impact consultations (13 January 2025).

Participant 6 (Kert Lapimma) informs that you can't just disclose people's health data, so there are doubts whether this can be done by January 13. The question is - What specific data and science-based information are needed?

V. Felsbergs replies that all materials provided will be assessed.

Participant 2 (Adele Bērziņa) says that the information provided by Enviroprojekts Ltd during the public consultation in Latvia differs from the information provided today.

V.Felsbergs informs that all the answers have been the same as for the Latvian public, nothing is different. This is a cross-border impact meeting. The public consultation in Latvia has been extended until January 12, 2025. Though the presentation is different from what it was in Latvian public hearings, the data and facts presented on environmental impact assessment are the same.

Participant 4 (Valdis Jerums) suggests waiting for the conclusion of the Saarde Wind Park, which is related to the medical concept of Wind Generator Syndrome, and only then decide on this park near the border.

K. Eglīte invites to share information about the Saarde wind park.

Participant 6 (Kert Lapimma) informs and asks that there are documents in Estonian that can already be sent to the proposed action developer. Having created the document himself. A Youtube link is sent- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaQnJVBBbg4&t=20s>

If additional information on the research results in Saarde will be sent later, but they will show that there are problems, will it be considered?

K.Eglīte and **V.Felsbergs** answers - You can definitely send the studies and results from the research when they are available.

Participant 2 (Adele Bērziņa) asks - What was the methodology used to assess cross-border cumulative impacts on ornithofauna and for how long a period was it carried out?

Answer - The impact on ornithofauna in Estonia was studied following the same methodology as in Latvia. The study period was 2022 - 2024. For more detailed information, see Chapter 9.2 of the EIA report.

Closing information is provided to meeting participants.

The meeting is closed at 17:35.

Recorded by

Ieva Anna Arāja, SIA Enviroprojekts

Annex_Meeting Participants

No.	First name, surname	Represented institution/company
1	Līga Blanka	Enviroprojekts Ltd
2	Valdis Felsbergs	Enviroprojekts Ltd
3	Ieva Anna Arāja	Enviroprojekts Ltd
4	Atis Cirpons	Enviroprojekts Ltd
5	Kristīne Eglīte	Latvijas vēja parki Ltd
6	Inese Svārpstiņa - Pilve	Nordisk Ltd
7	AA	
8	Adele Bērziņa	
9	Algirdas (Andis Antāns)	
10	Anda	
11	Armands Broks	
12	Baiba Ozolina	
13	Dāvis Valters Immurs	Landscape expert for the EIA project
14	Edgars Dzenis	EIA project ornithologist
15	Edgars Liepins	Latvijas vēja parki Ltd
16	EE_Marily Jaska	
17	Pēteris Blumats	Enviroprojekts Ltd
18	Ilze Lielvalode, LV	State Environmental Bureau
19	iPhone	
20	Irma Pakkonen	
21	janiso	
22	Kalev	
23	Kert Lapimaa	
24	Küllike Reineberg	
25	Lenna Hingla	Municipality of Valga
26	Lilli Tamm	Ministry of Climate of Estonia
27	Linda	
28	Madis.Mumm -Valga	Municipality of Valga
29	Maiu	
30	Margis Sein	
31	N. Subina	
32	Rene Reisner	Estonian Ministry of Climate
33	Thea	

No.	First name, surname	Represented institution/company
34	Toomas	
35	Valdis Jerums	
36	Vineta Maskava, VPVB	State Environmental Bureau