



Espoo Convention's Point of Contacts for
Notification in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Germany,
Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the Russian
Federation

Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) to extend Loviisa nuclear power plant's lifetime

As the Party of Origin, Finland is hereby sending notification, in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention, of a proposed project by a Finnish company Fortum Power and Heat Oy to extend Loviisa nuclear power plant's lifetime in the southern Finland. The notification is also in accordance with the EIA directive and bilateral EIA agreement with Estonia. Finland has made the consideration to notify its neighboring countries and the Espoo Convention's Baltic Sea subregion. Additionally Finland is informing all other Parties to the Espoo Convention of the project.

The project

The developer is in the process of assessing the extension of the operation of Loviisa nuclear power plant by a maximum of approximately 20 years beyond the current operating license period. The current operating license issued by the Finnish government to Loviisa 1 unit is valid until the end of 2027, and the operating license issued to Loviisa 2 unit is valid until the end of 2030. The other main alternative is to proceed to the decommissioning phase when the power plant's current operating licenses expires.

More detailed description of the alternatives in the EIA programme (scoping document) are as follows.

Alternative 1

- Extending the operation of Loviisa power plant by a maximum of approximately 20 years after the current operating license period, followed by decommissioning.
- The option also includes the measures to extend the service life of the power plant, decommissioning of the power plant after the license period ends, the operation and ultimate dismantling of plant parts to be made independent, and the waste management measures related to these phases.
- In addition, the option includes the possibility of receiving, processing, placing in interim storage and depositing for final disposal small amounts of radioactive waste generated elsewhere in Finland.

Alternative 0

- Decommissioning of Loviisa nuclear power plant after the current licensing period.
- The option also includes the operation and ultimate dismantling of plant parts to be made independent, and the waste management measures related to these phases.

Alternative 0+

- Decommissioning of Loviisa nuclear power plant after the current licensing period.
- The option also includes the operation and ultimate dismantling of plant parts to be made independent and the waste management measures related to these phases.

- In addition, the option includes the possibility of receiving, processing, placing in interim storage and depositing for final disposal small amounts of radioactive waste generated elsewhere in Finland.

More information on the project and of the planned content of the EIA can be found from the EIA programme and from the summary made for the Espoo Convention's public hearing in the likely affected Parties.

The decision-making procedure

The Nuclear Energy Act (990/1987) and the Nuclear Energy Decree (161/1988) define the licensing procedure and the conditions for the use of nuclear energy and the responsibilities and powers of the authorities. The detailed Finnish licensing requirements for nuclear installations are outlined in the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) regulatory guides (www.stuk.fi).

To extend the operation of the power plant, new operating licenses must be applied for the power plant units. The decommissioning of the power plant units requires that a decommissioning license be applied. The operating license and decommissioning license are issued by the Government.

In the case of both extending the operation and the decommissioning of the power plant, the low- and intermediate-level waste repository is operated longer than the validity of the current operating license, which is why a new operating license must be applied also for this repository.

The valid local detailed plan makes it possible to carry out change work in the power plant area, construct additional structures and buildings, and decommission the power plant. In addition, the project requires permits in accordance with the Land Use and Building Act (e.g. a building permit), as well as, potentially, permits in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act and Water Act (e.g. environmental permit and water permit).

EIA procedure in Finland

The Finnish EIA procedure consists of two phases: the EIA programme phase and the EIA documentation phase. The assessment procedure begins when the developer submits the EIA programme to the competent authority, which is the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment in nuclear energy related projects. The EIA programme contains information on the alternatives to the project and what the developer proposes to be the potential environmental impacts of the project to be studied and assessed. Authorities, the public and NGOs are entitled to comment on the EIA programme. The competent authority will take into account the comments received, domestically and from abroad, and will issue its own opinion on the EIA programme. In its statement, the authority will indicate which investigations the developer must concentrate on and how the proposal for the EIA programme should be amended. In accordance with the Finnish EIA legislation, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment must give its own statement to the developer on the adequacy of the EIA programme within one month after the end of the commenting period.

It is the duty of the developer to assess the environmental impacts of the project and its alternatives. The developer draws up the EIA documentation on the basis of the investigations carried out. Authorities, the public and NGOs are entitled to comment also on the EIA documentation. The competent authority collects all the opinions and statements submitted on the EIA documentation and, after taking these into account, issues its own reasoned conclusion on the EIA.

The EIA must be carried out before any decisions on licensing can be made. The developer attaches the EIA documentation and the reasoned conclusion to the permit applications.

Public hearing

The public hearing of the EIA programme begins in Finland on 27 August and lasts until 26 October, 2020. The EIA programme is available in Finnish, Swedish and English. The document intended especially for the public of the notified Parties including the relevant parts of the EIA programme, is available in Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, German, Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Russian and English.

It is the duty of the concerned Parties to ensure that the public of the affected Party in the areas likely to be affected be informed of, and be provided with possibilities for making comments or objections on the proposed project. The Finnish Ministry of the Environment is the Point of Contact of the Espoo Convention in Finland. Should you need further cooperation on the matter, please contact the Seija Rantakallio from the Ministry.

Answer to the notification

Referring to Article 3.3 of the Espoo Convention, Finland kindly asks your country **to respond on 2 November 2020 at the latest**, and to

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

Kindly send the answer to this notification to the Ministry of the Environment: Kirjaamo@ym.fi and as a copy to Seija Rantakallio (firstname.lastname@ym.fi) or by mail (Ministry of the Environment, PO Box 35, FIN-00023 Government, Finland).

As a next step the developer prepares the EIA documentation, which will then — according to the provisions of the Espoo Convention — be sent by Finland to the affected Parties that have replied to the notification. The affected Party will then have the opportunity for participation of authorities and the public as well as for consultations.

Permanent Secretary

Juhani Damski

Ministerial Adviser,
Point of Contact of the Espoo Convention

Seija Rantakallio

Links to the Notification material (the documents has been prepared by the developer):

- Link to the Environmental Impact Assessment Programme in English and Summary of the environmental impact assessment programme for the international hearing (Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, German, Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Russian and English) <https://tem.fi/en/loviisa-1-and-2-eia-programme>
- Link to the Environmental Impact Assessment Programme in Swedish <https://tem.fi/sv/lovisa-1-och-2-mkb-programmet>
- Link to the Environmental Impact Assessment Programme in Finnish <https://tem.fi/loviisa-1-ja-2-yva-ohjelma>

For more information about the project and the EIA:

Developer

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EIA competent authority

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Espoo Convention's Point of Contact in Finland

Ministry of the Environment

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