



SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

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Case number
NV-26-033047

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Swedish reply to the notification pursuant to Art. 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding a small modular reactor (SMR) plant in Kuopio, Finland (SYKE/2026/605)

The Finnish Environment Institute notified the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) on the 10th of April 2026 about the planned project of a SMR plant in Kuopio in the North Savo region, Finland.

Finland has fulfilled their responsibility following from article 3 of the Espoo Convention by providing SEPA with a notification regarding the project. SEPA hereby inform that Sweden intends to participate in the upcoming Espoo process.

Consultation in Sweden

SEPA is the responsible authority for submitting and receiving notifications and otherwise fulfilling obligations for environmental impact assessments in a transboundary context (Espoo Convention) in Sweden, according to the Environmental Assessment Regulation (SFS 2017:966). The notification and the consultation documents have been circulated for consideration by SEPA to relevant government agencies and six County Administrative Boards, well as environmental organizations and affected public. The consultation period lasted 22th of April 2026, until 24th of June 2026.

Remarks received during the consultation

A summary of the statements received is included below, please note that the summary is written on behalf of the SEPA and not for the body to which the proposal is referred for consideration.

The County Administrative Boards of Stockholm, Västerbotten, Västernorrland and Uppsala did not see the need to participate further in the consultation process. Neither did the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency, the Swedish Forest Agency, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management or the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture considers that, despite the distance to Kuopio, a severe reactor accident could have transboundary impacts on Sweden,

including effects on the marine environment, fisheries, agriculture and livestock production. Sweden should therefore be given the opportunity to review and comment on the forthcoming Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA should include an analysis of a severe accident scenario involving core meltdown at the proposed SMR facility, including the dispersion of radionuclides and the types of fission products that could be released, in order to provide a clearer assessment of potential transboundary effects.

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority shares the assessment that any potential transboundary impact is primarily related to a severe accident but wishes to continue participating in the process and to receive the Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Swedish Food Agency considers that Sweden should be given the opportunity to review and provide comments. The environmental impact assessment should include an assessment of a severe accident involving the proposed SMR technology, including potential radionuclide releases and their impact on drinking water and food production. It should also evaluate whether such an event could result in EU food safety limits being exceeded, including in areas outside Finland.

The County Administrative Board of Norrbotten assesses that a severe accident at a Small Modular Reactor (SMR), involving the release of radioactive substances through air or water, cannot be ruled out and could therefore affect Sweden. The environmental impact assessment should continue to address accident risks, nuclear waste management, and threats such as sabotage and cyberattacks. Sweden should be given the opportunity to participate in the process and provide comments on potential transboundary impacts.

For full details of the statements received, please see attached.

Conclusion

SEPA hereby acknowledges having received the notification and based on received statements also inform Finland that Sweden intends to participate in the upcoming Espoo process.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures.

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Nanna Wikholm
Head of Unit

Paula Kurenkunnas on behalf of
Richard Kristoffersson
Point of Contact for the
Espoo Convention

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The Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Ebba Kvernebo Sunnergren

Enclosed, statements from:

The Swedish Board of Agriculture

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority

The Swedish Food Agency

The County Administrative Board of Norrbotten