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16. September 2013 No 11-2/13/ 7474-3

**Notification in accordance with the Article 3 of the  
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a  
Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)**

Hereby we would like to notify You about the initiations of environmental impact assessments (EIA) of Kalkahju and Naha dolomite minings. The proposed activities is in the list of activities in the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. According to this agreement the affected country must be informed when the activity is in the zone of 15 kilometers from the Estonian-Latvian border and also when the mining area is more than 5 hectares. Please find the maps of the locations of those dolomite quarries enclosed.

The developers are Kiirkandur and Aigren Kaevandus OÜ. At the moment it has been agreed that there will be two different EIAs for those quarries. The distance between the foregoing minings is 1,2 kilometers. The extracted dolomite will be used as a crushed stone for construction and road building. As Kalkahju mining is very close to the border of the Republic of Latvia, the Aigren Kaevandus OÜ is planning to market the end product also to Aluksne, Gulbene and Vilakna region.

Both quarries are situated in Karisöödi Village, Mõniste Community, Võru County. The Naha quarry is 23,54 hectares. 150-250 meters from the mining there is river Peetri (Melnupe), which is the border river between the Republic of Latvia and Estonia. The border of the Republic of Latvia is approximately 1,2 kilometers from the mining site. The Kalkahju quarry is 77,60 hectares and it is situated 550 meters from Latvian border. The Latvian dolomite mining in Apes is 3,5 kilometers from Naha mining.

The mining will be below the level of the groundwater and therefore the water will be pumped out and lead to river Peetri. This river is also Natura 2000 site. It is possible that lowering the water level will have impacts on Latvian side.

The EIA procedure in Estonia:

EIA is regulated by the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act. A EIA shall be carried out during making the decision of giving the development consent. The authority who is making the decision about giving the development consent shall initiate. The expenses of the EIA will be covered by the developer. After initiation of EIA, an expert on EIA shall prepare an EIA programme. The programme consists of information on the proposed activity and the content of EIA.

The EIA programme is published and everyone has the right to access the EIA programme at the time of the public display and the public consultation regarding the programme, to submit proposals, objections and questions regarding the programme and obtain responses. An expert shall, in cooperation with the developer, make the necessary amendments to the EIA programme on the basis of the proposals and objections submitted at the time of the public display and the public consultation. Taking account of the proposals and objections shall be described and refusals shall be justified in the amended programme or an annex. Written questions shall be responded to by sending an unregistered or a registered letter. After the publication the programme and the consultation with the affected parties a supervisor of EIA shall decide to approve or refuse approval of an EIA programme.

Environmental impact of the proposed activity is analysed and the EIA report is composed on the basis of the EIA programme. The EIA report is also published and approved or refused by the supervisor.

According to the Espoo Convention where the party of origin considers that the proposed activity is likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact, the Party of origin shall notify any Party which it considers may be an affected Party as early as possible and no later than when informing its own public about that proposed activity.

The affected Party shall respond to the Party of origin within the time specified in the notification, acknowledging receipt of the notification, and shall indicate whether it intends to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedure. The affected party will have the opportunity to make comments on the EIA programme and report.

The next phase for the Naha and Kalkahju dolomite minings EIAs is to compose the EIA programmes. If You wish to participate in one or both of the EIAs, we will send You the EIA programmes and reports for making comments later on.

Answer to the notification:

Referring to the Article 3.3 of Espoo Convention and taking account the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, we kindly ask You to respond to this notification by 13 of October 2013 at the latest, and to

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification;
- indicate whether your country intends to participate in the EIA procedures.

Yours sincerely,



Ergo Pärn  
Acting Deputy Secretary General

Enclosures: Maps of the locations of the dolomite quarries

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