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LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS APLINKOS MINISTERIJA  
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

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Ministry of Environmental Protection and  
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Peldu str. 25, Riga  
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REGARDING THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
SPECIAL TERRITORIAL PLAN OF THE EUROPEAN-STANDARD RAILWAY LINE  
KAUNAS – LITHUANIAN/LATVIAN STATE BORDER

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, acting as a Strategic Environmental Assessment national competent authority, transfers the information of the planning organizer of the special territorial plan of the European-standard railway line Kaunas – Lithuanian/Latvian state border, in accordance with Article 7 of the European Parliament and Council Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (known as 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' – SEA Directive) and the requirements of the UN Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context Assessment Report 10 (1) thereof, informing that preparation of the special territorial plan of the European-standard railway line Kaunas – Lithuanian/Latvian state border (Special Plan) has been started and that the document establishing the scope of the strategic environmental assessment has been drawn up.

Planning Organizer - Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino pr. 17, LT-01505, Vilnius, phone: +370 5 239 3941; +370 5 239 3942, fax: +370 5 212 4335; Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB (Lithuanian Railways) in accordance with the powers granted by Order No 3-672 of 16 October 2012 of the Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania "On the grant of authority to Lietuvos Geležinkeliai AB"; legal entity code: 110053842; registered by the following address: Mindaugo g. 12, LT-03603, Vilnius; phone number: +370 5 269 2888; +370 5 269 3283; fax: +370 5 269 2665; e-mail: railbaltica@litrail.lt; v.griganaviciute@litrail.lt; s.poskus@litrail.lt; website address: [www.rail-baltica.lt](http://www.rail-baltica.lt).

Planning territory - part of the territories of Kaunas and Panevėžys Counties.

Objectives of the Special Plan - to select the optimal route for the European-standard railway line Kaunas – Lithuanian/Latvian state border and to determine the point of crossing the Lithuanian/Latvian state border.

Planning Tasks:

1. To carry out exploring engineering geological and geotechnical investigations, to evaluate the suitability of the geological conditions for the justification of the construction conditions, and to carry out other investigations needed (archaeological, etc.);

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2. To carry out the strategic environmental assessment of the European-standard railway line Kaunas – Lithuanian/Latvian state border and to establish the best alternative;
3. To prepare the development concept of the planned territory. (The development concept shall pass public hearings procedures. This concept after relevant procedures will be approved in writing by the Planning Organizer.)
4. Independent professional assessment of the development concept will be performed;
5. To study the needs for the conversion of forest land into other lands and adjustment of forest areas of national significance;
6. To form new land plots and to prepare specific solutions for the building of the European-standard railway line Kaunas – Panevėžys – Lithuanian/Latvian border;
7. To reserve territories for the building of the European-standard railway line Kaunas – Panevėžys – Lithuanian/Latvian border;
8. To establish measures for the use, management, and protection of the planned territory as well as other requirements;
9. To specify the special land use conditions;
10. To plan the European-standard railway line Kaunas – Panevėžys – Lithuanian/Latvian border, which would meet the requirements of EU legislation for the technical specifications for interoperability and the requirements of legislation of the Republic of Lithuania as well as transportation needs, enhance the interoperability of separate branches of transport with the purpose of creating favourable conditions for the development of the production and service sectors, and would be associated with the planned development of the adjacent territories and solutions of the planning documents of these territories;
11. To ensure the implementation of measures improving traffic safety and to decrease the negative environmental impact of transport;
12. To perform the environmental impact assessment of the proposed economic activity pursuant to the requirements of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity.

Alternatives proposed by the Special Plan. It should be noted that the route of Option A justified in the AECOM study in the Republic of Lithuania, at the territories of Pasvalys District Municipality and Panevėžys District Municipality, crosses the territory of a karst region, the geological conditions of which should be regarded as unsuitable for the construction of a European-standard railway line. Therefore, in order to avoid the territories of the karst region, which are unsuitable for the construction of a European-standard railway line, the Special Plan establishes alternatives updating the route of Option A justified in the AECOM study (Appendix 1).

The start of the route provided for by the Special Plan: Rokai Railway Station (Kaunas City Municipality).

End of the route provided for by the Special Plan. The options of crossing the Lithuanian/Latvian state border considered in the Special Plan (Appendix 1):

Alternative No 1 – Dagiai (Pasvalys District Municipality);

Alternative No 2 – Kamardė (Pasvalys District Municipality);

Alternative No 3 – Kiemėnai (Pasvalys District Municipality);

Alternative No 4 – Majėnai (Pasvalys District Municipality);

Alternative No 5 (the point of Alternative A of the AECOM study) – Dagiai (Pasvalys District Municipality).

We kindly ask you to respond at your earliest convenience, preferably no later than April 8, 2015 and indicate, whether the Republic of Latvia considers, that the project will have any significant consequences on Latvian territory and whether Latvia intends to participate in the environmental impact assessment consultation process in the context of a transboundary SEA.

Please address your response to:  
Territorial Planning, Urban Development and Architecture Department  
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania  
A. Jakšto str. 4/9  
LT-01105 Vilnius, Lithuania  
For contacts: telephone: +370 706 63609, e-mail: [a.gordevicius@am.lt](mailto:a.gordevicius@am.lt)

Enclosed Appendix 1, 1 page.

Sincerely yours,



Daiya Matonienė  
Vice Minister

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