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Riga

8 September 2023

Programme No. 5-03/6/2023 for environmental impact assessment of the ELWIND offshore wind farm and the infrastructure associated with it

Valid until 9 September 2028

Programme issued by:

Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, registration number 90001739473, registered address: Pērses iela 2, Riga, LV-1442, electronic address: pasts@liaa.gov.lv ('Initiator')[1].

The programme has been prepared in accordance with Sections 16 and 17 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment ('Assessment Law') and Chapter IV of Cabinet Regulation No. 18 'Procedure for environmental impact assessment and intended activity approval' of 13 January 2015 ('Regulation No. 18'), based on the application submitted by the Initiator on 28 July 2023 'Application for the development of an environmental impact assessment programme', requesting a programme for conducting an environmental impact assessment ('EIA'), and for the initial public consultation ('initial consultation') of the EIA, received by the State Environmental Monitoring Bureau ('Bureau') on 24 August 2023 (Bureau reg. No. 5-01/428), and taking into account the opinions on the intended activity and the proposals for the EIA expressed by the public and institutions. The programme set the required level of detail for the EIA Report ('report') and the scope of studies and organisational measures necessary for further impact assessment, as specified in Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18.

I. Scope of the environmental impact assessment and the result of the initial public consultation:

1. The scope of the EIA is the construction of the ELWIND offshore wind farm ('wind farm') and the infrastructure associated with it ('intended activity'). The intended activity also includes the construction of infrastructure necessary for the functioning of the project, such as power transmission lines, as specified in Section 1(3) of the Assessment Law[2].

[1] By Cabinet Decision No. 22-TA-1730 'Information report on the further development of the joint Latvia-Estonia offshore wind energy project' of 13 September 2022, the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia was appointed as the developer of the site of the Latvian part of the ELWIND offshore wind farm.

[2] Intended activity refers to the implementation, expansion, or modification of equipment, machinery, and technologies, implementation of a project, construction, extraction or use of natural resources, creation of impact on areas and landscapes not affected or little affected by human activity, and other activities, the performance or final result of which may have a significant effect on the environment. Section 3(7) of the Assessment Law states that *an intended activity that has or may have a significant impact on the environment may not be divided into multiple activities, as this would prevent a proper assessment of the cumulative effects of the intended activity.*

2. The potential location of the wind farm and its infrastructure is the Baltic Sea territorial waters under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Latvia, off the coast of Kurzeme, as well as the real properties and corresponding land units intended for the wind farm infrastructure (e.g., power transmission overhead/cable lines, new access roads, substations for connections) (hereinafter jointly: 'activity site'). The possible location of the wind farm is identified as a wind park survey zone ('E4 site') in accordance with the national long-term zoning document 'SEA ZONING 2030. Sea zoning plan for internal sea, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Latvia', Annex 1.

3. On 17 May 2023, the EIA procedure was applied to the intended activity by Bureau Decision No. 5-02-1/4/2023 'On the application of the environmental impact assessment procedure and the assessment of cross-border environmental impact' ('Decision No. 5-02-1/4/2023'). Decision No. 5-02-1/8/2023 'Regarding amendments to Decision No. 5-02-1/4/2023 of 17 May 2023 "on the application of the environmental impact assessment procedure and the assessment of cross-border environmental impact" of 6 July 2023, amended Decision No. 5-02-1/4/2023.

4. According to the information provided by the Initiator[3], the total planned capacity of the wind farm in the Republic of Latvia is to be between 500 and 1000 MW, depending on the technologies available when the project is implemented. The planned area of the wind farm is ~200 km^2. The wind turbines ('WT') are expected to have a total height of up to 350 m and a rotor diameter of up to 300 m. The Application shows that the models and technical characteristics of the WT to be installed have not yet been determined. As part of EIA, it is planned to assess multiple WT models, comparing them against each other as technological alternatives. EIA will also evaluate the method of installing WT, i.e., the type of foundation to be used. The wind farm will include a substation to connect the transmission cables of all the WT in the wind farm. The cable line zone is expected to be ~100 m wide. EIA will include an assessment of alternatives for the connection of the offshore substation to the onshore substation, which will depend on the option used for the location of the offshore wind farm. The cable between the offshore substation and the onshore grid is expected to be at a new substation in Pāvilosta or at the existing substation in Užava.

5. The E4 site is located ~55 km from the maritime border with the Republic of Estonia, ~100 km from the maritime border with the Republic of Lithuania, and ~50 km from the maritime border with the Kingdom of Sweden. The major populated areas located on the Kurzeme coast and nearest to the site of the intended activity are: Liepāja, Pāvilosta, Ventspils, Jūrkalne, and Užava.

6. E4 contains no protected natural areas or micro-reserves. According to the information provided, the distance between the E4 site to the nearest sites included in the Natura 2000 European network of nature protected areas ('Natura 2000 sites') and important bird sites ('IBS')[4]:

   6.1. ~25 km from the marine protected area Irbe Strait (site code: LV0900300; type: A[5]); the site is within the IBS Irbe Sea Strait (code: LV014);

[3]The Initiator's Application No. 1.1-15.5/2023/347 'Application for environmental impact assessment' of 24 April 2023, the Initiator's Letter/Application No. 1.1-15.5/2023/491 'Regarding the site of the ELWIND offshore wind farm' of 16 June 2023, the Initiator's Letter/Application No. 1.1-15.5/2023/513 'Clarifications to the application for environmental impact assessment' of 28 June 2023.

[4] The IBS are defined in accordance with the book '*Eiropas Savienības nozīmes putniem nozīmīgas vietas Latvijā*' ('European Union Important Bird Sites in Latvia') published by the Latvian Ornithological Society, reg. No. 40008002230, in 2004, available at: https://www.lob.lv/programmas/vietas/pnv/eiropas-savienibas-nozimes-putniem-nozimigas-vietas-latvija/, and in accordance with the information available on the website http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/mapsearch.

[5] Type marked 'A' — areas designated for the protection of bird species.

6.2. ~33 km from the nature reserve Ovīši (site code: LV0521500; type: C[6]), the nature reserve overlaps with the IBS Ovīši (code: LV072);

6.3. ~8 km from the marine protected area Akmensrags (site code: LV0900200; type: C), this area overlaps with the IBS Ziemupe to Rīva Coast (code: LV061);

6.4. ~16 km from the nature reserve Ziemupe (site code: LV0508100; type: C), the nature reserve overlaps with the IBS Ziemupe (code: LV070);

6.5. ~11 km from the nature reserve Užava (site code: LV0520300; type: C), the land part of the nature reserve overlaps with the IBS Užava Coast (code: LV071);

6.6. ~20 km from the nature park Lower Reaches of the Užava (site code: LV0304300; type: C), the nature reserve overlaps with the IBS Lower Reaches of the Užava (code: LV012);

6.7. ~32 km from the nature reserve Upper Reaches of the Užava (site code: LV0536000; type: C), the nature reserve overlaps with the IBS Upper Reaches of the Užava (code: LV0008).

6.8. Distances between the E4 site cable route corridor (possible onshore connection: Užava substation) and the identified Natura 2000 sites and IBS:

6.8.1. ~13 km from the marine protected area Akmensrags (site code: LV0900200; type: C), the nature reserve overlaps with the IBS Ziemupe to Rīva Coast (code: LV061);

6.8.2. ~7 km from the marine protected area Kura kurgu (site code: EE0040434; type: A), the site overlaps with the IBS Irbe Strait (code: EE049);

6.8.3. ~13 km long intersection with the protected marine area Irbe Strait (site code: LV0900300; type: A), the site is included in the IBS Irbe Strait (code: LV014);

6.8.4. ~3 km long intersection with the nature reserve Užava (site code: LV0520300; type: C), the land part of the nature reserve overlaps with the IBS Užava Coast (code: LV071).

7. The initial consultation on EIA for the intended activity took place between 11 July and 11 August 2023. The initial consultation notice was published in the Kurzemes Vārds newspaper, issue No. 129 (9464) of 11 July 2023, in the Ventas Balss newspaper issue of 11 July 2023, in the free information periodical of Ventspils Municipal Council 'Ventspils Novadnieks', issue No. 7 (160), and posted on the following websites: www.liaa.gov.lv/lv/elwind-aktualitates, www.dkn.lv, www.liepaja.lv, www.ventspils.lv, www.ventspilsnovads.lv, and www.vpvb.gov.lv. The materials prepared for the intended activity were available at on the website https://www.liaa.gov.lv/lv/elwind-aktualitates, where they could be accessed until the programme was published. The materials prepared on the intended activity were available for review in person on the premises of Dienvidkurzeme Municipal Council (address: Lielā iela 76, Grobiņa, Dienvidkurzeme Municipality), Liepaja State City Council premises (address: Rožu iela 6, Liepāja), Ventspils Municipal Council premises (address: Skolas iela 4, Ventspils) and Ventspils State City Council (address: Jūras iela 36, Ventspils). An online videoconference (meeting) took place on 7 August 2023, at 10:00; the access link was published on the Initiator's website, at www.liaa.gov.lv/lv/elwind-aktualitates, on the social media accounts of the Initiator on Facebook and Twitter, on the website of Dienvidkurzeme Municipal Council https://www.dkn.lv/lv, on the social media account of Ventspils Municipal Council on

[6] Type marked 'C' — areas designated for the protection of species and biotopes.

Facebook, on the Ventspils Municipal Council website https://ventspilsnovads.lv/, on the social media account of Ventspils State City on Facebook, and on its website, at https://www.ventspils.lv/. For the initial consultation, a remote meeting was organised in accordance with Section 20 of the Law on the Management of the Spread of COVID-19 Infection. The initial consultation meeting for the intended activity was remotely held on 7 August 2023, at 10:00 (using the Microsoft Teams platform): questions could be submitted verbally, in writing through the chat, and by e-mail, via elwind@liaa.gov.lv. A link to the online meeting room and instructions for connecting to it were available at www.liaa.gov.lv/lv/elwind-aktualitates and www.facebook.com/LIAALatvija between 31 July and 4 August. A presentation was also published on the Initiator's website at www.liaa.gov.lv/lv/elwind-aktualitates and on the websites of Ventspils State City, Ventspils Municipality, Liepāja Municipality and Dienvidkurzeme Municipality councils, available to the public from 7 August to 11 August 2023. According to the initial consultation materials, a total of 165 people took part in the online meeting for the initial consultation. The participants were familiarised with the intended activity. The participants could ask questions. People were mainly interested in the distances between the planned WTs and specific houses or properties they owned, and the choice of the planned wind farm site. The participants of the public consultation expressed their opinions on the planned location of the wind farm, and its distance from the coast; they stated their concerns about its impact on the landscape and tourism, about vibration effects on fish, people, and other aspects. Following the online meeting, a video recording of the initial consultation meeting was posted on the Initiator's website and was available until the programme was issued. The questions that arose during the remote consultation meeting could be sent to the Initiator's e-mail: elwind@liaa.gov.lv. The questions and answers received via e-mail were summarised in the minutes of the meeting and published at www.liaa.gov.lv/lv/elwind-aktualitates. Two in-person information seminars were organised as part of the initial consultation: on 2 August 2023 at 17:30, at Pāvilosta Culture Centre (address: Dzintaru iela 47, Pāvilosta, Pāvilosta Municipality), and on 3 August 2023 at 17:30, at Jūrkalne Community Centre (address: 'Tautas nams', Jūrkalne Parish, Ventspils Municipality). The public could submit written proposals on the intended activity until 4 August 2023.

8. As part of the initial consultation, the Bureau received a total of 38 applications from local residents and organisations expressing their views on the intended activity and proposals for the EIA programme, with 6 applications also stating opinions about the proceedings of the initial consultation. Private individuals mainly objected to the wind farm as it could affect recreational capacity, tourism, landscape, fisheries, protected natural areas, natural items of value, protected species, birds, coastal erosion, etc. In response to the Bureau's letter requesting proposals for the environmental impact assessment, the Bureau received 20 replies from institutions. The applications and institutional proposals received by the Bureau during the initial consultation were also taken into account in defining the requirements for this Bureau programme. All the proposals received were forwarded to the Initiator. In preparing its report, the Initiator must review and assess the points made in these proposals.

9. Having assessed the initial consultation materials, and the information provided by the Initiator during the initial consultation, the Bureau has found that the potential power transmission solutions and the infrastructure associated with them (e.g., specific locations of the necessary access roads, transmission line routes, substations and connections to the infrastructure of AS 'Augstsprieguma tīkls') are not yet known at this stage of the project, and that the specific real properties to be affected by the planned power transmission solutions and the associated infrastructure are also not known. The Bureau is also reviewing complaints received during the initial consultation on the wind farm related to the participation of the public in the initial consultation. In view of the above and in issuing this

programme, the Bureau points out that prior to the public consultation on the report required under Section 17 of the Assessment Law, the Initiator of the intended activity must, in accordance with Section 15 of the Assessment Law, conduct the measures for individually informing the owners (holders) of real properties that border the area of the intended activity, as required in Section 22.2 of Regulation No. 18. The Initiator must also arrange an initial consultation on the impact of the intended activity on the construction and location of the planned transmission solutions and associated infrastructure, and, if the assessment of complaints reveals that the initial consultation did not take account of the rights of the public and its participation in it, the Initiator must additionally arrange a repeat initial consultation on the wind farm. In accordance with Section 15(1) of the Assessment Law and Section 22 of Regulation No. 18, during the initial consultation, the Initiator must publish a notice on the intended activity and the option for the public to submit written proposals on the potential environmental impact of the intended activity in the newspaper of the municipal government or in another local newspaper, and individually inform the owners (holders) of real properties bordering the area of the intended activity, which in this case will be the areas where it is planned to implement the power transmission solutions and the infrastructure associated with them to connect the planned wind farm to the infrastructure of AS 'Augstsprieguma tīkls'. The notice must contain the information specified in Sections 24 and 25 of Regulation No. 18. The Initiator must submit the notice electronically to the Bureau and to the municipal government in question, for publishing these notices on their websites. The Bureau calls for keeping up to date with latest changes in the legislation related the spread of COVID-19, including the provisions for organising meetings.

10. In view of the above, the Bureau may receive additional information and proposals as part of organising further initial consultation events, including possibly the initial consultation meeting, whereby such information must be taken into account when issuing the programme, in accordance with Section 14.[1] and Section 16(2) of the Assessment Law. The Bureau also recognises that it would not be proportionate to extend the time for issuing the programme until additional initial consultation activities take place, and it confirms that the programme can be developed and sent to the Initiator, even though the specific number and location of the planned WT and the potential power transmission solutions and associated infrastructure (e.g., specific locations of necessary access roads, power transmission line routes, and connection points to AS 'Augstsprieguma tīkls' infrastructure) are still unknown at this stage of the EIA. The programme is one of the intermediate decisions made by the Bureau as part of the environmental impact assessment process. The Administrative Procedure Law does not directly govern the option of cancelling or revising such an interim decision; however, based on similarity with another provision (Section 85(1) of the Administrative Procedure Law), the Bureau rules that, if applicable, the programme may be revised (including setting new requirements) after arranging additional initial consultation activities (if necessary).

II. Level of detail of the general requirements for the preparation of the environmental impact assessment report:

1. The requirements for the preparation of the report on the intended activity are set in Section 17(3) of the Assessment Law and Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, which shows in detail what information and assessments must be included in the report. Thus, the Bureau does not list these requirements again, pointing out that the report must be prepared in accordance with Section 17(3) of the Assessment Law and Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, structured as closely as possible to that which is provided in Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18.

2. In accordance with Section 16(1) of the Assessment Law, the Bureau uses this programme to expand the provisions already laid down in the external regulations for the type of information that must be provided in the report, indicating the type of information and assessment that particular attention must be paid to, taking into account the specific features of the intended activity and the activity site.

3. For the preparation of the report, the Bureau sets the following general requirements:

   3.1. The report must define the boundaries of the wind farm, providing a description of the criteria used and explaining the boundaries of the surveyed area, which must include the location of the activity, the area of the potential impact of the intended activity, and the area of its impact in combination with other activities. The surveyed area/activity site covers the areas where the WT are planned to be installed and the areas where the infrastructure related to the wind farm and intended to transmit the generated electricity to the mains is planned to be built, as well as the shipping lanes, ports, transport routes to be used during construction, including the representative sections of municipal, regional, and local roads, access roads between the site of the intended activity and national roads, and the site of the new and/or (if applicable) power transmission solution and the associated infrastructure to support it.

   3.2. The report must include a cartographic representation of the existing and planned location of the site, including the distance from the coast and the location of the site relative to the sea and/or coast, showing on a comparable scale the current situation and the planned situation of the activity site and the area of influence of the intended activity. Existing and planned facilities must be presented cartographically, including the locations of the infrastructure facilities associated with the planned wind farm and intended to feed the generated electricity into the mains, as well as any temporary and permanent auxiliary facilities required (e.g., access roads, open areas, etc.), as well as the land and sea protection zones, land reclamation systems, natural sites, restricted areas, and other significant information that enables a clear visual understanding of what changes are to be caused by the intended activity and where.

   3.3. The impact of the intended activity on onshore and offshore Natura 2000 sites must be assessed in accordance with Section 4.[1] of the Assessment Law. This section states that the impact on Natura 2000 sites must be assessed in accordance with a separately determined procedure and, if an EIA is carried out for the intended activity, the assessment report on the impact on Natura 2000 sites must be included as a separate chapter or chapters of the environmental impact assessment report. The procedure for assessing the impact on Natura 2000 sites is set in Cabinet Regulation No. 300 ‘Procedure for assessing impact on European-level protected nature areas (Natura 2000)’ of 19 April 2011 (‘Regulation No. 300’).

   3.4. The assessment of alternatives to the intended activity must be carried out to the same level of detail, as required by Section 8 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18.

   3.5. The environmental impact assessment to be covered by the report must be carried out by specialists with higher academic or professional degrees, preferably in a relevant field of science and engineering. The assessment must be carried out by experts (including by experts in relevant species and habitats) certified in the corresponding fields, and the report must include signed expert reports. The report must include a list of the experts (with their degrees) that prepared the impact assessment of the intended activity.

   3.6. The report and the documents attached to it must be signed and prepared in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations. If the original document was prepared electronically, a paper copy of it must be prepared in accordance with the Electronic

Documents Law and include a statement on the electronic signature and the time stamp.

3.7. In order to improve the comprehensibility of the report, one must also prepare a short introduction to the report that provides a brief description of the intended activity, of the activity site and its main parameters, including information about the variants of the intended activity, the main conclusions of the impact assessment, and the planned timeline for the intended activity.

3.8. In preparing the report, one must take into account the possible changes in actual and legal circumstances, including changes in the laws and regulations governing EIA and the assessment of certain aspects of impact.

III. Institutions and organisations to be consulted or notified of the report:

1. The Initiator must consult the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Defence, Nature Conservation Agency, AS 'Augstsprieguma tīkls', VAS 'Latvijas gaisa satiksme', VA 'Civilās aviācijas aģentūra', VAS 'Elektroniskie sakari', VSIA 'Latvijas valsts ceļi', National Cultural Heritage Board, BIOR Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health, and Environment, Daugavpils University Agency 'Latvian Institute of Hydroecology', VSIA 'Latvijas jūras administrācija', Kurzeme Planning Region. In view of the proposals/conditions made by the institutions as part of the environmental impact assessment for the location of the WT and associated infrastructure, and the conditions for determining that location, enclosed with this programme, the Bureau recommends consulting the institutions that have indicated the scope of the EIA and whose proposals/conditions for the environmental impact assessment for determining the location of the WT and associated infrastructure have been included in this programme, and consulting other entities and merchants, if necessary, in order to achieve the desired level of detail in the report. The report must represent the results of the consultations.
2. The report must be submitted to the Permits Administration and Nature Conservation Administration of the State Environmental Service, to Ventspils State City Council, Liepāja State City Council, Dienvidkurzeme Municipal Council, Ventspils Municipal Council, Health Inspectorate, and National Cultural Heritage Board for obtaining their written proposals for improving the report.

IV. Requirements for the set of assessments and studies to be included in the report:

1. Description of the activity site and the intended activity:

1.1. The Bureau does not impose any detailed conditions for the fulfilment of the requirements specified in Sections 1 and 2 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18 (see also Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of Part II of the programme).

1.2. When providing information about the activity site in accordance with Section 3 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, one must also include information about the current use of the site and its suitability for the intended activity. The report assesses the wind conditions, the hydrometeorological and hydrodynamic conditions, the suitability of the bed for building the WT foundations, soil stability, geotechnical conditions, distances from protected natural areas, micro reserves, sites of archaeological value, explosive objects, distances from national sea borders of the countries affected in the cross-border context, residential buildings, populated areas, objects of public importance (tourism, recreation, land reclamation systems, offshore mining sites, traffic, telecommunications, and other infrastructure and utility structures, such as telecommunications lines, power lines, pipelines, etc.) (see also Section 2 of Part IV, of the programme).

1.3. In defining the alternatives to the intended activity according to the type and specific nature of the intended activity (Section 4 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18), one must consider alternatives to the scope of the intended activity, the WT parameters and the location of the facilities (distances and geometric layout between WTs, location of cables for internal connections, etc.) at the site of the intended activity, with an impact on the hydrodynamic features of the bed and coastal zone, the items of natural value, and the landscape.

1.4. In providing information in accordance with Section 5.1 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18 (description of the physical features of the intended activity and its alternatives, land use requirements during construction and operation), the following level of detail must be observed, among other things:

1.4.1. In describing all the planned and necessary work and its sequence, it must be taken into account that the description encompasses the preparation of offshore and onshore sites, the construction of additional facilities necessary, the relocation or reconstruction (in connection with the construction of the wind farm infrastructure, if applicable) of existing structures (including utility structures and land reclamation facilities), their transportation, and the reclamation of the site. Possible schedule of the construction (indicating the start and the end, as well as the durations of specific phases of the process onshore and offshore); possible seasonal restrictions on construction.

1.4.2. Given the planned location of the activity and the specific features of the intended activity, attention must be paid to the preparation of the planned site and the onshore and offshore tasks necessary for the installation of WT. In offshore construction sites, the planned volumes and types of soil to be excavated, the duration and calendar period of the excavation operations, the sequence of operations, the technological solutions, the equipment, machinery, and gear to be used to perform this work, the locations and conditions (if applicable) for depositing the soil removed. Planned engineering solutions to limit the spread of potential pollution (including oil and chemical spills, vibration, underwater noise, and turbidity) during the construction. Provide information about the features, types, aquatic environment hazards, and management options for the waste generated during construction and operation, onshore and offshore. Onshore, describe and assess the areas and schedules (if applicable) required for vegetation removal, including deforestation, rearrangement or reconstruction of land reclamation facilities (including outside the activity site).

1.4.3. Provide a description of the WT and a comparison of possible WT models including their suitability for installation at different depths in the sea, indicating the height above and below water level, blade length, use of chemicals and mixtures of chemicals, and protection against spills and emissions through the blades, the capacity and efficiency of the WT, expected power output, foundation and building structure materials and conditions for the construction, noise levels at different frequencies (also underwater and depending on wind speed), blade de-icing solutions, protection against corrosion, against erosion in the foundation, effects of waves, ice, salt content in the air, and other specific factors, protection of overhead/cable power transmission lines at sea, solutions for repelling birds, etc.

1.4.4. Description of hydrometeorological and hydrodynamic conditions unfavourable to the intended activity (water temperature, salt content in the air, icing, wave height and regularity, etc.). Regularity of operation of the WT, with the minimum, optimum, and maximum wind speeds at which the WT can operate.

1.4.5. In describing the structures and auxiliary equipment (including the maintenance and monitoring solutions for the WT during their operation), indicate and explain their characteristics and capacity (with particular attention to the capacity and characteristics of the equipment that determine the location of the WT).

1.4.6. Determine the area required for the construction of the offshore WT and the land area required for the construction of the transmission solutions, including the total land area whose use and/or land use is to change (e.g., for the construction of roads and other associated infrastructure) to enable the WT to operate and the power generated to be fed into the mains. Description of temporary areas necessary for construction, their type of use. Planned reclamation measures after the completion of the construction, and the technologies to be used for reclamation.

1.4.7. Provide information about the ownership of the area of the intended activity and the areas that are adjacent to it that it intersects, the real properties where the construction of the facilities related to the construction of the WT and the transmission of the power generated by the WT to the mains is to take place.

1.4.8. Provide information about the location of all structures, equipment, and power transmission cables at the site of the activity, indicating their layout. If applicable, provide information about the location of all structures and equipment associated with the intended activity and located outside the site of the activity (e.g., structures associated with the transmission of the generated power to the mains and solutions for the maintenance and monitoring of the WT), indicating their layout.

1.5. In describing the construction and operation processes (including the materials and natural resources used) in accordance with Section 5.2 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, also pay particular attention to the following:

1.5.1. Description of the technologies and equipment used for construction offshore and onshore; assessment of the need for blasting, drilling, and pile driving work (if applicable). Necessary utility lines. Provision and descriptions of special flotation devices and other machinery and gear necessary for construction underwater and above water (including matters of occupational safety and water pollution). Description of the offshore and/or onshore installation of the WT and other facilities, the sequence of the construction tasks, and appropriate safety measures (including water pollution risks), as well as possible alternative solutions.

1.5.2. Description and suitability of the materials used for the construction and protection of power transmission cables for aquatic environments.

1.5.3. Assessment of the construction of connections to the mains and of the possibility to transmit the maximum expected amount of power generated by the planned wind farm to the grid. The possibility of transmitting a specific amount of generated power to the mains and the possible solutions for it must be assessed and developed in consultation with AS ‘Augstsprieguma tīkls’. The options for determining the location of the transmission of power facilities are also assessed in the context of the restrictions of the Protection Zone Law.

1.5.4. Management, supervision and control the operation of the WT.

1.5.5. Supervision and control of the activity site during construction and operation, including restrictions associated with construction at sea, operation of the WT and transmission of power, including WT access, potential damage to offshore

structures (including foundation erosion control), offshore power transmission line damage detection and repairs, etc.

1.5.6. The types and amounts of chemicals and mixtures of chemicals required for the operation of the WT, including the lubrication and cooling of WT machinery and transformers, as well as the solutions for the replacement and storage of these chemicals and mixtures of chemicals.

1.6. In providing information in accordance with Section 5.3 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, particular attention must be paid to noise emissions at different frequencies (including in the aquatic environment) and to flicker (if applicable, also assessing the impact on the aquatic environment and bird migration routes), vibration and electromagnetic fields, and the potential risks of water pollution. Explain at what stages of the implementation of the intended activity the emissions and impact will arise. The predicted emission amounts are determined as numerical values, taking into account the provisions of the technical documentation for the facilities or other literature (e.g., sound power capacity of the facilities). For waste generated during the intended activity (including the waste associated with the management of the substances specified in Part IV, Section 1.5.4 of this programme after their use in the WT and, if applicable, for the operation of the transformers, and the waste generated after the decommissioning of the WT), also specify the solutions for managing it. Provide information about the solutions for dismantling and recycling or reusing the WT.

1.7. In preparing the information specified in Section 5.4 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, the instructions of Section 10 of such Annex pertaining to the assessment of the risks of failures must be followed and taken into account to the extent of their relevance to the intended activity. Pay particular attention to safety aspects such as icing and potential impact on maritime traffic, air traffic, operation of navigation equipment.

1.8. The Bureau does not set a specific level of detail for meeting the requirements of Sections 5.5 and 5.6 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18.

2. Assessment of the state of the environment at and around the activity site:

2.1. In accordance with Section 6 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18 (assessment of the current state of the environment), the report must include a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment, with considerations of how this state could develop in the absence of the intended activity (baseline scenario). The assessment of the baseline scenario does not constitute (or replace) an assessment of alternatives to the intended activity, but is a way of determining the extent to which the intended activity could cause possible negative changes in the state of the environment.

2.2. In accordance with Section 7 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, the description of the current state of the environment must cover all environmental aspects listed in the legal definition of ‘environmental impact’ in Section 1(1) of the Assessment Law, with particular attention paid to the rationale for whether and how the intended activity (including in combination with other activities) may affect these fields. This enables the identification of significant effects, also determining what processes give rise to them, and what effects these effects could have on humans, human health and safety, biodiversity, land and soil, water, air, climate, landscape, tangible property, cultural and natural heritage, as well as the potential exposure of the activity site to risks of failures or accidents.

2.3. In conducting the assessment of the state of the environment, take into account the fact that the boundaries of the surveyed area also encompass intersections with and

construction locations for the planned onshore and offshore construction sites and areas, access roads, transmission lines that are associated with the WT, and other power transmission infrastructure, as well as the state of the environment in the areas likely to be affected by the intended activity (including in combination with other activities).

2.4. Pay particular attention to the following aspects of the assessment of the state of the environment to be carried out in accordance with Sections 7.1 through 7.9 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18:

2.4.1. Description of the seabed, including its morphology, topography, geological, geophysical, and geochemical characteristics of the bed and sediments, stratigraphy of the sediments.

2.4.2. Geological and geotechnical description of the offshore activity site, down to the depth of the planned WT foundation, with modern geological processes and their intensity, seismic assessment of the site.

2.4.3. Description of the hydrological, hydrodynamic, and lithodynamic conditions, including the current and bed sediment flow and sedimentation; description of the seabed and coastal erosion and accumulation zones.

2.4.4. Assessment of the quality of the marine environment at the activity site and within the area of its effect. Assessment of the seawater quality at the activity site. Assessment of the potential contamination of seabed sediments. Assessment of the occurrence of unexploded ordnance in the areas intended for construction.

2.4.5. For the onshore activity site, associated with the locations of the infrastructure necessary for the operation of the Wind Farm and the areas for temporary use in construction, conduct an assessment of the geological, geotechnical, hydrogeological, and hydrological conditions, including modern geological processes.

2.4.6. Description of the items of natural value in the surroundings offshore (benthic characteristics, also taking into account the information provided by the Daugavpils University Agency 'Latvian Institute of Hydroecology' in its letter No. 1.9-45 of 3 August 2023) and onshore (including a description of the forests, large trees, and other protected natural objects, if applicable), at the activity site and in the onshore and offshore areas associated with the intended activity, and in the area of potential impact of the intended activity. Access roads, including shipping routes, and other power transmission-related solutions associated with the intended activity intersecting, or located close to the nearest protected natural areas (including Natura 2000 sites); their protection regulations and their importance for biodiversity conservation. Protected species and biotopes, micro-reserves; areas for gathering (e.g., for feeding, nesting/breeding, hibernation) and migration corridors of birds, bats, seals, and other marine mammals, spawning sites (if applicable) at the site of the intended activity and in its immediate vicinity, indicating the distances from the boundaries of these areas or intersections with them, also taking into account Nature Conservation Agency letter No. 4.9/5010/2023-N of 15 August 2023.

2.4.7. For the activity site and its area of impact, including the construction of the Latvia/Estonia offshore power cable interconnection, an assessment of any intersected and nearby Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the requirements of Section 9 of Cabinet Regulation No. 300 and its subsections, including the assessment of the purpose of the creation and protection of these sites, the patterns and interactions that

define the existence of items of natural value within Natura 2000 sites, the factors already creating a negative impact in them prior to the implementation of the intended activity, etc.

2.4.8. Assessment of fish and other pelagic species, including fish species found within the areas (including species protected at the European level and species present in other countries), their seasonal occurrence and quantity, spawning, migration, and feeding grounds, also taking into account the description of fisheries and fishing grounds closest to the activity site, as indicated in BIOR Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health, and Environment letter No. 1-8/462-e of 15 August 2023.

2.4.9. The scenic, cultural and historic (including underwater) significance of the site and the area of impact of the intended activity, with archaeological sites, nearest protected cultural heritage sites, their protection zones, nearest areas of scenic value, recreational and tourism sites, taking into account the information provided by the National Cultural Heritage Board in its letter No. 06-05/5863 of 11 August 2023.

2.4.10. Residential building and populated areas in the vicinity of the activity site, distances from them (onshore). Distance between the wind farm and the coast, nearest populated areas, recreational facilities.

2.4.11. Assessment of current air quality and noise and vibration levels at different frequencies, including under the water, at the location of the intended activity and in its area of impact, with a focus on the analysis of the existing problems and the locations of these problems, if any are found.

2.4.12. Information about nearby industrial activities, including offshore mineral extraction sites (if applicable), contaminated sites, and activities that create a similar impact, including existing and planned, an assessment of this impact, providing the rationale for adding or not adding this impact to the impact of the intended activity.

2.5. In describing the current state of the environment, the report must also include the following details:

2.5.1. Compliance of the planned activity with the policy documents/laws and regulations of the European Union and the Republic of Latvia, including the international agreements entered into by the Republic of Latvia, and the long-term national zoning document ‘SEA ZONING 2030. Sea zoning plan for internal sea, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone of the Republic of Latvia’. With regard to the construction of the infrastructure associated with the intended activity (power transmission solutions, substations, access roads, etc.), compliance with the long-term strategy documents of the affected municipalities, the zoning plan, and any necessary amendments to the zoning plan to allow the intended activity to be carried out.

2.5.2. A description of the meteorological, hydrometeorological, hydrodynamic, and climatic conditions in the context of the implementation of the intended activity, including the wind pattern diagram, wind speed, and the factors that determine the amount of power generated by the WT. Assessment of the sufficiency of the wind speeds necessary for the operation of the WT at different elevations from the surface of the water.

2.5.3. Information about the nearest ports and shipping lanes, airports and airfields, as well as telecommunications facilities that could be affected by the intended activity.

2.5.4. Other information and assessments as specified in Sections 7.1 through 7.9 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18.

3. Potential environmental impact of the intended activity and its assessment:

3.1. The significant environmental effects of the intended activity and its possible alternatives must be assessed in accordance with the sub-sections of Section 8 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, taking into account the fact that direct and indirect, secondary, cumulative, total, cross-border, and other effects must be considered.

3.2. In terms of the most significant effects in the context of the intended activity (as defined in Section 8 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18), the Bureau has set the following level of assessment detail:

3.2.1. In assessing the impact of the work listed in Section 8.1 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18 (construction and, if applicable, demolition), one must take into account site preparation, including the impact of changing the seabed, removing vegetation (including deforestation), modification/development of land reclamation systems, and topsoil removal (if necessary), as well as the impact of the construction of additional necessary infrastructure (e.g., roads, power lines, transformers) or the rearrangement of land reclamation systems beyond the activity site, if necessary. The assessment must also take into account the impact of transport, including transportation from ports and along shipping routes, and the potential inconvenience or disruption caused to local residents and property owned by third parties; and restrictions on the use of existing roads/bridges. Assess the necessary construction or improvement of ports, access roads/bridges to enable the delivery of large products (building structures) to the WT and power transmission solution installation sites. In assessing the impact of onshore and offshore transport during construction, one must take into account the requirement of this programme in that the area of impact of the intended activity must also include shipping lanes, and a land transport route that includes both regional and local roads, and representative sections of municipal roads, as well as access roads connecting the activity site to national roads. Thus, a noise impact assessment must also be carried out for the representative section of the transport route if it goes through areas where environmental noise limits apply (if transported by land). Necessary changes in the organisation of sea traffic and its safety during the construction of the Wind Farm and after the commissioning of the facility.

3.2.2. If applicable, assess/calculate the total amount of deforested areas required for the installation and development of the planned infrastructure and transmission solutions (including the construction and rebuilding of access roads, temporary storage areas for materials, and the construction of other infrastructure associated with power transmission).

3.2.3. Assess changes in noise and vibration levels, including underwater noise and vibrations, in the area of effect of the intended activity during its construction and operation. Given that the assessment of the impact of vibrations is not regulated in Latvian law, and there are no specific limitations, this assessment must be carried out based on the available environmental information and scientific knowledge, including experience in other countries. This assessment must be justified and properly predict possible changes. Section 8 and its subsections in Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18 concerning the assessment of environmental noise must be complied with in accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 16 ‘Noise assessment and management procedure’ of 7 January 2014. Computer software for calculating the spread of noise must be used to assess compliance with the

environmental noise standards. An analysis of different noise frequencies (including low frequencies) and assessment of their impact on human health must also be carried out.

3.2.4. The effect of flicker (movement of shadows created by the blade) as well as glare from WT blades must be assessed.

3.2.5. Predictions of the potential impact of the intended activity on the geological and geomorphological processes on the coast must be made.

3.2.6. The protection zones of the facilities associated with the intended activity (e.g., power lines, cables, roads, land reclamation ditches) must be determined and marked in the cartographic materials. The impact of restrictions in the identified protection zones and their significance, and the areas affected by the restrictions must be assessed.

3.2.7. The potential difficulties or constraints (also improvements, if applicable) pertaining to the use of the surrounding areas (e.g., related to access, recreation and tourism, economic activities, including fisheries) must be assessed.

3.2.8. [7]A biodiversity impact assessment must be carried out, also taking into account the information provided by the Nature Conservation Agency, with a particular focus on protected species, their habitats, protected habitats and habitats protected by the European Union, as well as micro-reserves created for their protection. Impact on birds, bats, seals, and other mammal populations must also be assessed, taking into account the impact during feeding and migration. Impact on protected items of natural value, especially bird species and their nesting ability, must also be assessed in the context of areas to be deforested (if applicable). If applicable, studies of protected species must be carried out in accordance with their conservation plans[8]. The study of birds and bats must be carried out in accordance with the [9]European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, Guidance document on wind energy developments and EU nature legislation, Publications Bureau of the European Union, 2021, and the Eurobats guidelines (Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm project Revision 2014[10]). The seabed surveys must identify the distribution of seabed habitats and biotopes of types specified in Annex I of the Habitats Directive (1110 Sandbanks at sea, 1170 Reefs), HELCOM HUB and Red List biotopes, obtaining as much information as possible about the species and the quality of these biotopes (structures, functions, threats or pressures affecting or likely to affect them). The impact in these aspects is to be assessed in accordance with the instructions stated by the Nature Conservation Agency in its letter No. 4.9/5010/2023-N of 15 August 2023. The potential and level of detail of these studies are to be determined and approved by the Nature Conservation Agency.

3.2.9. Assess the impact (turbidity, noise, seabed changes, etc.) on fish, including the capacity of preserving aspects such as spawning, migration, and feeding. In assessing the impact on fish migration, particular attention must be paid to the

[7] Nature Conservation Agency letter No. 4.9/5010/2023-N of 15.08.2023.

[8] Species and habitat conservation plans developed and approved in accordance with Section 5(4) of the Law on the Conservation of Species and Biotopes and Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia Order No. 127 'Regarding the procedure for the development of species and biotope conservation plans' of 11 May 2015. (Available at: https://www.daba.gov.lv/lv/sugu-un-biotopu-aizsardzibas-plani?utm_source=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F)). (Accessed on 9 February 2022).

[9] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/wind_farms_lv.pdf

[10] https://www.eurobats.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/publication_series/pubseries_no6_english.pdf

capacity of the fish migrating to the natural Latvian salmon rivers of Saka and Užava located near the intended activity, and to the River Riva, where a fish path has been constructed for the migration of trout, lamprey, and other species. The impact on these aspects is to be assessed in accordance with the instructions stated by the BIOR Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health, and Environment in its letter No. 1-8/462-e of 15 August 2023. The potential and level of detail of these studies are to be determined and approved by the BIOR Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health, and Environment. An assessment of the potential impact on fisheries is also carried out during construction and operation.

3.2.10. An assessment is carried out of the impact on benthic biotopes. An assessment of the impact of the intended activity and the turbidity and sedimentation created by its construction stage on benthic habitats, water quality, and the aquatic ecosystem as a whole must also be carried out. For the assessment of the transfer of sediment particles, it is necessary to use model calculations in accordance with the instructions provided by Daugavpils University Agency 'Latvian Institute of Hydroecology', in its letter No. 1.9-45 of 3 August 2023. The potential and level of detail of these studies are to be determined and approved by Daugavpils University Agency 'Latvian Institute of Hydroecology'.

3.2.11. The assessment of the impact on Natura 2000 sites, namely, the Irbe Strait marine protected area and the Užava nature reserve (if applicable, also on other Natura 2000 sites) if intersected by the Latvia/Estonia power connection, and the impact on biodiversity is prepared by nature experts certified in the relevant field. The field assessment of the site must be carried out during the appropriate season, making it possible to assess the relevant items of natural value, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Nature Conservation Agency in its letter No. 4.9/5010/2023-N of 15 August 2023, and in compliance with the requirements of Cabinet Regulation No. 925 'Scope and minimum requirements for expert reports in species and biotope protection' of 30 September 2010.

3.2.12. In assessing the impact of the intended activity on Natura 2000 sites (onshore and offshore), one must take into account the direct and indirect impact, as well as any other impact, resulting from expected changes in the environment (during the installation/construction/rebuilding/operation of the proposed wind farm and power transmission solutions and associated infrastructure), including geological processes, hydrological processes, and changes in humidity patterns, where applicable, etc. As part of the EIA process, experts must assess in detail the impact of the proposed WT on the goals of the creation of the Natura 2000 sites specified and, if relevant, other Natura 2000 sites, and the items of natural value these sites contain, basing expert conclusions on data-based considerations. If necessary, the feasibility of the intended activity is to be assessed taking into account Section 43(5) of the Law on Specially Protected Nature Territories.

3.2.13. Based on the data of the study, one must define measures to mitigate the impact, if any are necessary during the construction and operation of the wind farm. In order to protect different groups of species and other items of natural value from the impact of the WT and the planned wind farm, the environmental impact assessment must determine the minimum acceptable distance and conditions for determining the location of the WT, explained and supported by the results of surveys, as well as an assessment of the specific conditions relevant for the existence of the items of natural value in question.

3.2.14. The assessment of the impact on the landscape and cultural heritage sites must include visualisations from representative viewpoints. The significance of the

impact of the intended activity on the landscape, cultural and historic environment, items of archaeological value, and recreational resources must be assessed taking into account the information provided by the National Cultural Heritage Board in its letter No. 06-05/5863 of 11 August 2023.

3.3. Within the context of Section 8 (and its subsections) of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, the report includes an assessment of:

3.3.1. Possible mutual and cumulative impact with other planned nearby offshore wind farms (in the Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Estonia, Kingdom of Sweden)[11]. Proper assessment must be performed of aspects where such cumulative impact is likely.

3.3.2. Changes in air quality and their significance at the activity site and in its area of impact during construction.

3.3.3. Potential impact of the intended activity and construction on geological conditions, sediment flow, and seabed and coastal processes, as well as modern geological processes.

3.3.4. Impact on climate created by the generation of power from renewables. At the same time, the climate impact relative to the total area of deforested land (if applicable) must be considering, assessing the expected negative change in carbon sequestration. In accordance with Section 5.5 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, the climate impact must be assessed using a uniform calculation methodology.

3.3.5. The impact of the intended activity and the WT on the operation of telecommunications systems (radio equipment necessary for managing the flights of aircraft, wireless electronic communications, radio location, radio navigation, sea and air mobile communications, internet, and other special communication equipment).

3.3.6. The impact of electromagnetic fields created by the WT and planned transmission solutions on human health and marine fauna.

3.3.7. The potential impact of the intended activity on air traffic (including military air traffic) and flight safety.

3.3.8. Potential impact on port operations. The potential impact of the intended activity on vessel traffic (including for military vessels), including assessing the impact on the length of shipping lanes and shipping safety, analysing the measures to mitigate vessel collision risks in planning the location of the wind farm in conjunction with industry experts.

3.3.9. Solutions for the management of waste arising from the lubrication and cooling of WT machinery and the operation of transformers (if applicable), as well as from the management of the WT once they are decommissioned.

3.3.10. The impact of the construction (of associated infrastructure) for the intended activity on the land reclamation system and its facilities (onshore), also assessing the acceptability of the intended activity and the feasibility of its technical solutions (if applicable).

3.3.11. Other impact aspects must be assessed in accordance with Section 8 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, as well as the subsections of that Section, including:

[11] Information about other offshore wind farms is available at https://www.vpvb.gov.lv/lv/parrobezu-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-projekti

3.3.11.1. Assessment of the intended activity in the context of other possible activities, such as combining wind energy generation with the generation of wave energy, aquaculture or other production, if this is technically feasible, at the site of the wind farm, enabling multifunctional use of the marine space.

3.3.11.2. Impact of the intended activity on national defence sites, with the level of detail to be approved by the Ministry of Defence.

3.4. The assessment of cross-border impact and its significance for the intended activity must be carried out in accordance with Section 8 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18. The information and assessment in the context of cross-border environmental impact must be integrated into the appropriate sections of the report or prepared separately. The Initiator must also prepare the report summary and the section covering potential cross-border impact and/or the report itself in English and, on request, in the language of the affected country (if necessary, taking into account the result of consultations with affected countries).

3.5. In assessing the impact of the intended activity in accordance with Section 10 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, particular attention must be paid to the aspects of safety, such as icing and the resulting spread of ice, spills of chemicals, spills in the event of a WT collapse, fires in the event of a WT self-igniting or igniting due to exposure to external factors, safety conditions, and the potential for other incidents in the vicinity of the WT. The environmental risks are to be assessed in the most typical and worst-case failure scenarios.

3.6. An assessment of the socio-economic aspects of the intended activity is to be prepared, including the impact on property (including real property), on existing and planned economic activity, including tourism and fisheries, an assessment of the area of impact of the intended activity, taking into account the conclusions on the significance of the expected impact.

3.7. The report must include a summary assessment of the opinions and attitudes of the public (including institutions and the municipal government), including an assessment of the results of the public consultation meetings (including the initial public consultation) in accordance with Section 16 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18.

4. Grounds for choosing the option selected, in the context of environmental impact comparison.

4.1. In assessing and comparing the options for the intended activity in accordance with Section 11 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, the criteria must be specified for conducting this comparison.

4.2. The criteria are chosen by the Initiator, but the assessment must basically include a comparison in terms of environmental impact. Explain the chosen option and assess the compliance of the intended activity and its impact with the laws and regulations setting requirements for the intended activity.

5. Assessment methods used:

5.1. In assessing the impact of the intended activity, one must specify the prediction methods used, and if computer software is applied for forecasting, the input data for the forecasts must be provided.

5.2. The report must include the information specified in Sections 12 and 13 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18. In addition to Sections 12 and 13 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18 and to the provisions of this programme, the Bureau does not prescribe any other level of detail for assessment methods.

6. Requirements for the assessment of measures to prevent, avoid, or mitigate negative impact on the environment, and for the analysis of factors limiting the intended activity:

6.1. The types of solutions and measures (engineering, organisational, etc.) intended to prevent, avoid, or mitigate significant negative environmental effects of the intended activity must be described and assessed in accordance with Section 14 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18, and must encompass the solutions to be implemented during site preparation, the construction of any additional necessary facilities, and during the operation of the WT. The extent to which such measures eliminate, prevent or reduce such impact and what lasting impact there is must be assessed (effectiveness of the measures and lasting impact compliance with the requirements of applicable laws and regulations). The compliance of the residual impact with the laws and regulations governing environmental protection must be assessed.

6.2. The factors possibly limiting the intended activity (taking into account the restrictions set in laws and regulations, items of natural value, bird migration corridors, and other aspects limiting the construction of the WT, based on an assessment of the expected environmental impact of the construction and operation of the facilities and infrastructure needed to support the WT and the transmission of power, as well as the measures needed to prevent, mitigate, etc. such factors) are analysed. If necessary, conditions must be determined for restricting certain activities.

7. Monitoring requirements:

7.1. The report must include measures for the monitoring of environmental quality and for supervising and assessing the impact as set in Section 15 of Annex 2 to Regulation No. 18.

7.2. The monitoring planned and any specific conditions for methods, locations, parameters, durations, and regularity that can already be foreseen, must be included.

7.3. The Nature Conservation Agency, the BIOR Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health, and Environment, and Daugavpils University Agency 'Latvian Institute of Hydroecology' must be consulted, if necessary, regarding the conditions for monitoring, the best methods enabling long-term comparability in relation to the potential impact of the WT and power transmission solutions, including their construction and operation, on the protected items of natural value identified in the study area.

V. Requirements for public consultations and publication of information:

1. The report analyses the comments and proposals received during the initial consultation, including a report overview of the proposals submitted by the public, stating the manner in which they were taken into account. If necessary, the report includes an assessment of the solutions planned to address the problem situations.

2. The requirements for the public consultation on the report are set in the Assessment Law and Regulation No. 18. The Bureau does not list these requirements again, but at the same time notes that public participation and encouraging public participation is one of the main tasks of EIA, and Section 17(6) of the Assessment Law states that the Initiator must determine the opinion of the public and encourage the participation of the people likely to be affected by the intended activity through public consultation or by surveying the public.

3. If still applicable during the period in question, public consultations on the report must also take into account the restrictions and conditions related to the management of the spread of COVID-19, as specified in external regulations.
4. The Initiator must ensure that the report undergoes public consultation in the manner specified in the Assessment Law and Regulation No. 18, including the cross-border consultations in countries that request it.
5. The public version of the report is not to include restricted-access information (for example, on certain items of natural value, if applicable) and must comply with the requirements for the protection of personal data. In the published overview of the report that must be included in the report according to Section 17(3) and (7) of the Assessment Law, the processing of personal data takes place in such a way that the data cannot be linked to a specific data subject without the use of additional information (i.e., the data must be pseudonymised); the overview must also be submitted to the Bureau without pseudonymisation, in a way that makes it possible to establish whether the application in question was received and assessed at all and to fully understand its proposal and the manner in which it was taken into account.

Director (*signature) D. Avdejanova

* This document has been signed with a secure electronic signature

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