



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

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Espoo Convention Secretariat
UNECE

ESPOO CONVENTION – CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN LITHUANIA

With reference to your e-mail of 28 September we submit the following information.

(a) Transboundary EIA cases (examples or statistics):

In June 1999, the Republic of Lithuania received a notification from the Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia about the sand gravel extraction case near the Latvian-Lithuanian border. Specialists from the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania have decided that the proposed activity would not have a significant impact on the Lithuanian nature, and Lithuania did not participate in the environmental impact assessment procedures. Also, in September 2000 and in May 2001, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania received two notifications from the Danish Energy Agency about their intentions to lay a natural gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea. The Lithuanian experts have decided that the proposed activity would not cause a significant impact on the Lithuanian nature and declined to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedures.

In July 2002, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania sent the Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia the Information about the Installation of a Cement Solidification Facility for the Treatment of Liquid Radioactive Waste and the Erection of a Temporary Storage Building. The Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia informed us that Latvia did not consider itself to be an affected Party, and the proposed activity would not cause a significant transboundary environmental impact. In August 2003, the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation sent us the information that the Russian Federation had initiated environmental impact assessment for the proposed “Baltic Port Development” project. The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania has declined to participate in the environmental impact assessment process, because this project will not cause a significant impact on the Lithuanian nature.

In September 2004, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania sent the Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Byelorussia Information about the environmental impact assessment of the decommissioning of Ignalina Power Station.

(b) Lithuanian EIA authorities:

Competent authorities of Environmental Impact Assessment:

- **Ministry of Environment** coordinates the environmental impact assessment process, investigates and ratifies the programs (scoping document) of environmental impact assessment, examines reports (statements) of environmental impact assessment and makes justified decisions for the planning economic activity:
 1. Nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors including decommissioning of such power stations or reactors;

2. Production, processing, enrichment, storage and disposal of nuclear fuel;
 3. Installations for processing, usage, storage and disposal of radioactive waste, including the decommissioning of such installations;
 4. Environmental impact assessment is performed in compliance with the United Nations Convention on Environmental Impact assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention);
 5. When the proposed economic activity is proposed to be carried out in the territory of several counties of the Republic of Lithuania, in the territories supervised by several Regional Environmental Protection Departments of the Ministry of Environment or the proposed economic activity may cause impacts on the environment of several counties (regions) of the Republic of Lithuania.
- **Regional Environmental Protection Departments of the Ministry of the Environment** coordinate the environmental impact assessment process, perform screening for the planned economic activities that are included in the List of the Types of Proposed Economic activities that shall Be Subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment (except these which are mentioned above p.1, 2, 3), also that are included in the List of Proposed Economic Activities that shall Be subject to the Screening for Obligatory Environmental Impact Assessment and prepare screening conclusions regarding obligatory environmental impact assessment for these economic activities (except cases when decision shall be made by Environmental Protection Agency of the Ministry of Environment).
 - **Environmental Protection Agency of the Ministry of Environment** coordinates the environmental impact assessment process, performs screening, investigates and ratifies the programs of environmental impact assessment, examines reports of environmental impact assessment and makes justified decisions for the following types of economic activities:
 1. Installation of ponds (amount of water held back or stored is less then 5 million m³ but more than 200 000 m³, or the area is less than 250 ha but more than 10 ha);
 2. Installations for hydroelectric energy production or installations that use the hydroelectric energy (hydroelectric power stations, mills, sawmills) (with a maximum power of more than 0.1 MW);
 3. Construction of inland waterways, ports, piers or terminals which can take vessels of less than 1350 tonnes but with an area of more than 1 ha;
 4. Hydrotechnical flood-relief installations (with an area of more than 1 ha);
 5. Installations of long distance aqueducts (with a length of more than 1 km);
 6. Transfer of water resources between river basins where the amount of water transferred is less than 100 million cubic meters/year or where the multi-annual average flow of the basin of abstraction is less than 2 000 million cubic meters /year and where the amount of water transferred is less than 5% of this flow;
 7. Lake purification and regulation of lake water level (when purified or regulated water area exceeds 0.5 ha);
 8. Extraction of sediments from the bottom of the sea or inner water bodies for such purposes as construction, “beach-feeding” or industry.

Relevant Parties of Environmental Impact Assessment are as following:

State institutions responsible for health protection, fire-prevention, protection of cultural assets, development of economy and agriculture, institutions of local self-government and other State institutions if they are interested in the participation in the environmental impact assessment process and if the competent authority approves it.

(c) National databases on transboundary EIA

There is no national database on the transboundary EIA in Lithuania.

(d) Bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements

1. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Poland on the Implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, signed in Warsaw on 27 May, 2004.

2. Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Byelorussia on the Implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.
3. Lithuanian proposal to the Russian Federation to elaborate the Draft Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

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