

Parties to the Espoo Convention

## Information letter regarding a planned small modular reactor (SMR) plant in Kuopio, Finland

Finland, as a Party of origin, hereby informs of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure for the proposed project. Developer, Kuopion Energia Oy, is planning a small modular reactor (SMR) plant in Kuopio in the North Savo region. The SMR plant is intended to produce district heat for the district heating network of the City of Kuopio. The SMR plant is planned to consist of up to four reactor units. The planned combined heat output of the reactors at the SMR plant is up to about 150 megawatt-thermal (MWth). It is estimated that the efficiency of the SMR plant will be in the range of 95 %, which will enable the generation of approximately 143 MWth of heat for the district heating network. The SMR plant has two alternative locations, which are Sorsasalo and Hepomäki. The space requirement for the SMR plant, along with the related buildings and structures, is planned to be approximately three hectares. The location of the SMR plant can be either in an above-ground open pit or in a rock cavern that has been excavated mainly underground.

Procedures for land-use planning are progressing in parallel with the EIA procedure for the local detailed plans for the alternative areas. These matters will be subjects to international consultation conducted through separate procedures. The responsible authority for the land-use plans is the City of Kuopio.

According to the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (252/2017), the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment acts as the competent authority when a project concerns a nuclear plant within the meaning of the Nuclear Energy Act (990/1987). Finland is currently planning its first SMR project. Finland is committed to applying the precautionary principle and to ensure that possible transboundary environmental impacts are considered. Finland has made the consideration to notify Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden in accordance with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and to inform Parties to the Espoo Convention.

The EIA programme is available in Finnish, Swedish and English, and an international consultation summary document is available in Danish, English, Estonian, German, Latvian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish and Swedish. These documents provide more information on the planned project, its alternatives, the EIA procedure, the planned content of the EIA and required permits. From 15 April 2026 onwards, the documents can be downloaded on the following webpage, which is maintained by the competent authority: <https://tem.fi/en/kuopion-energia-eia-programme>.

If your state consider itself to be likely affected by the planned project and wishes to be notified in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention and/or Article 7 of the Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU), please send a response letter stating your position to e-mail address of the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute ([kirjaamo@syke.fi](mailto:kirjaamo@syke.fi)) and to e-mail address of the Point of Contact in Finland ([transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi](mailto:transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi)) by **23 April 2026 at the latest**. Please indicate our reference number SYKE/2026/605 in your letter.

Head of services

Jenni Juslén

Senior officer,  
Point of Contact to the Espoo Convention  
and the Protocol on SEA

Laura Aitala-Martesuo

*This document has been electronically signed. The electronic signatures can be verified from the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute.*

<b>Appendices</b>	Kuopion_Energia_SMR_EIA_Program_International_consultation_summary_English.pdf 1014.9 kB
<b>Send list</b>	Points of Contact regarding Notification
<b>For information</b>	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland Ministry of the Environment Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment