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Baltyk 1

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Statement regarding the Polish transboundary consultation pursuant to Articles 4 and 5 of the Espoo Convention on the planned project titled 'Offshore Wind Farm OWF Bałtyk I'

The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) acknowledges the opportunity given by the Polish General Directorate for Environmental Protection to supply a view on the planned project and its environmental impact assessment.

SMHI welcomes that Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and Best Available Technology (BAT) will be applied during the offshore wind farm's three phases; the construction phase, the operational phase, and the decommissioning phase.

SMHI also views positively that several physical-chemical samplings will be collected during the operational phase and compared with conducted investigations before the construction of the offshore wind farm, to ensure that the project does not alter the marine water conditions.

However, in the environmental impact assessment, there are no modelling results for the potential impact on hydrography of OWF Bałtyk I, especially concerning the proximity to the Natura 2000 site Hoburgs bank and Midsjöbankarna (SE0330308). Wind farms influence the mixing in the surface layer of the surrounding sea through leeward atmospheric wakes, with future large-scale development scenarios having a potential impact on marine ecosystem processes. In the Baltic Sea, both in Swedish, Polish, and other countries' sea areas, a large number of wind farms are planned. Although the impact on the marine environment from each individual installation may be considered small, the cumulative consequences can be significant.

SMHI – Sveriges meteorologiska och hydrologiska institut

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Director of the Department of Community Planning Services Magnus Rödin has decided on this matter prepared by Maria Karlberg.

For SMHI

Magnus Rödin
Director of the Department of Community Planning Services

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