

Trondheim, 25.11.2025

Your ref.:

Our ref.:
2025/16030

Notification according to Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding proposed environmental impact assessment programme for the establishment of a nuclear power plant in Heim and Aure municipalities in western Norway.

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Regulations on impact assessment § 34, Norway hereby notifies Sweden, Denmark, Finland, United Kingdom, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Poland and Austria regarding the proposed impact assessment programme for the establishment of a nuclear power plant in Heim and Aure municipalities in western Norway.

The Norwegian Environmental Agency is the responsible authority for fulfilling obligations for environmental impact assessments in a transboundary context in Norway, according to the Regulations on impact assessment § 35.

Nuclear energy in Norway

The Norwegian government is not considering or planning new projects of nuclear reactors. The demand for low-emission energy production has led to an increasing interest of nuclear energy in the general public and among private stakeholders. Nuclear energy in Norway was last assessed in 1978.

Recognizing the increasing interest from both the general public and private stakeholders, the Norwegian government has deemed it necessary to establish an updated and comprehensive knowledge base to facilitate an informed societal debate on the potential role of nuclear energy in Norway. Consequently, the government has appointed an independent public commission (Kjernekræftutvalget) to assess the potential role of nuclear energy in the Norwegian energy system. The committee is due to deliver its report by April 2026.

It is important to emphasize that the development of an updated and robust knowledge base does not constitute a decision to incorporate nuclear power into Norway's energy supply. Any such decision must be preceded by a broad and thorough public and political discourse.

Description of the project proposal

The increasing public interest in nuclear energy has led to initiatives from private stakeholders who wish to explore the possibilities of establishing nuclear energy in Norway.

The proponent Norsk Kjernekraft AS notified the Ministry of Energy on 2nd of November 2023 with a proposed environmental impact assessment (EIA) programme for the establishment of nuclear power plants in Taftøy industrial park, located in Aure municipality in Møre og Romsdal county and Heim municipality in Trøndelag county on the Northwestern coast of Norway. The nuclear power plant itself is planned to be situated in Heim municipality, but supporting infrastructure may be located in Aure municipality.

On 23rd of April 2025, Trondheimsleia Kjernekraft AS was established as the responsible project developer. This company was founded in partnership by the future host municipalities, a local energy company NEAS, and Norsk Kjernekraft AS.

Norsk Kjernekraft AS states in the national notification that the nuclear power plant will be based on small modular reactors (SMRs) of up to 300 MW, each placed in separate buildings. Several alternatives are being considered, including reactor technologies and plant sizes. The notification outlines a maximum installed capacity up to 1500 MW. According to Norsk Kjernekraft AS, this could generate an annual power production of 12.5 TWh, equivalent to about 8% of Norway's total annual electricity production today.

Regulation related to impact assessments

The establishment of a nuclear power plant depends on a licence according to the Nuclear Energy Act and the Energy Act, and a permit according to the Pollution Control Act and must therefore be subject to an EIA. According to the Regulation on Impact Assessments, Annex I of the regulation designates the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA) as the competent authority for nuclear power plants under both the Nuclear Energy Act and the Pollution Control Act, alongside the Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Ministry of Climate and Environment. The Ministry of Energy is the competent authority for the environmental impact assessment of nuclear power plants under the Energy Act.

The EIA will form part of the basis for decision-making for any subsequent applications for a license under the Nuclear Energy Act and the Energy Act, permits under the Pollution Control Act, and other approvals under the Radiation Protection Act for the proposed project.

Description of the process

The Ministry of Energy issued an initial public hearing of the notification by Norsk Kjernekraft AS in May 2024. At the time it was considered premature to submit the project proposal for consultation with other countries.

In April 2025, the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Health and Care Services, the Ministry of Climate and Environment and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security instructed the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA), the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB), and the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) to prepare a joint recommendation for establishing a comprehensive program for the impact assessment of the project proposed by Norsk Kjernekraft AS in Taftøy Industrial Park in Heim and Aure municipalities. The recommendation from DSA, DSB and NVE was submitted to the ministries on September 1st, 2025. Its purpose is to provide a basis for an environmental impact assessment that clarifies the consequences of the planned project for society and environment, while ensuring a sound, and well-founded decision-making process in any subsequent licensing process under the Nuclear Energy Act and the Energy Act, as well as for permits under the Pollution Control Act and other approvals under the Radiation Protection Act.

Norway has not previously had nuclear reactors for power production, but four research reactors have been in operation in Norway: one in Halden municipality and three in Lillestrøm municipality. These reactors were used for research during various periods between 1951 and 2019 and are currently shut down while preparing for decommissioning.

The Norwegian Government established an independent public committee in June 2024 to evaluate the potential role of nuclear power in Norway's energy mix. The committee is set to deliver their Official Norwegian Report (green paper) to the Ministry of Energy by April 1st, 2026. In their joint recommendation for the environmental impact assessment program for the Heim and Aure project, DSA, DSB, and NVE advised that any further consideration of the matter be deferred until the committee has presented its findings and a national decision has been made regarding commercial nuclear power in Norway. Furthermore, the establishment of a nuclear power plant must be presented to the Norwegian Parliament before a license can be granted under the Nuclear Energy Act.

Documents included in the notification are the following

- The recommendation for the impact assessment program of the project in Taftøy industrial park in Heim and Aure municipalities, by DSA, DSB and NVE.
- The justification document for the recommendation for the impact assessment program of the project in Taftøy industrial park in Heim and Aure municipalities, by DSA, DSB and NVE.

Participating in the transboundary consultation

Norway kindly asks you to organize the public participation procedures in your country, and to do the following:

- To please confirm receipt of this notification
- To indicate whether your country wishes to participate in the EIA
- procedure
- To distribute the documentation to the relevant parties
- To submit any comments to the proposed project and planning programme from the relevant parties in your country

We ask that comments should be submitted no later than January 6th, 2026. Kindly send the response to The Norwegian Environmental Agency post@miljodir.no, with copy to espoo@miljodir.no, with the reference **2025/16030**.

Best regards
Norwegian Environment Agency