

The format for notification to an affected Party of a proposed activity under article 3 of the Convention was adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context by **Decision I/4** at its first meeting held in Oslo from 18 to 20 May 1998.

This document contains excerpt from Annex to Decision I/4 (Table 1) and can only be used in conjunction with the full text of Decision I/4 and not as a stand-alone document.

Notification to an affected Party of a proposed activity

.....

1. INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY	
(i) Information on the nature of the proposed activity	
Type of activity proposed	Construction and operation of an onshore wind farm consisting of up to 12 wind turbines, each with a nominal capacity of 4.5 MW, for a total installed capacity of approximately 50 MW. The project also includes a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a power capacity of 10MW 20MWh, designed to stabilize the grid and optimize the integration of intermittent renewable generation.
Is the proposed activity listed in appendix I to the Convention?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Scope of proposed activity (e.g. main activity and any/all peripheral activities requiring assessment)	<p>The project encompasses a full development of an Electricity Generation Wind Farm, including associated electrical and transmission infrastructure, located in the Municipality of Staro Nagorichane, on the slopes of Kozyak Mountain, close to the border with Republic of Serbia at elevations from 430 up to 1,170 m asl. The Project Area encompasses small surfaces of about 85 ha, within the Cadastral Municipalities of the villages Pelince, Vragoturce and Malotino.</p> <p>The main project components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of up to 12 wind turbines; • Inter-array power and communication cabling between turbines • One electrical substation, collecting and transforming the generated power; • Scada and automation system installation • Overhead transmission lines and/or groundcables , connecting to the national grid at the designated Kumanovo Substation connecting point; • Installation of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), above the Village of Vragoturce, for energy storage and grid balancing, with a power capacity of 10MWe and 20MWh . <p>All components form an integrated system for renewable energy generation, transmission, and storage.</p>

<p>Scale of proposed activity e.g. size, production capacity</p>	<p>The proposed wind farm has a total installed capacity of approximately 50 MW, with each turbine rated at 4.5MW . The associated BESS system has a power rating of 10 MWe and 20MWh. The project area extends roughly 6 km in length, along the Kozjak Mountain Ridge, covering a spatial layout optimized for energy yield and minimal aerodynamic interference between turbines.</p>
<p>Description of proposed activity (e.g. technology used)</p>	<p>The project involves the deployment of up to 12 wind turbines, designed to withstand local climate conditions.</p> <p>For the purposes of this project, the Vestas V163 – 4.5 MW wind turbine has been initially selected as a reference option for a suitable turbine type. This turbine operates through a fully automated control system based on regulating reference airflow and operating torque, enabling it to function at the optimal aerodynamic point and thus achieve maximum electricity generation.</p> <p>The wind turbine foundations are planned to have an octagonal shape, with diameters ranging between 18 and 22 meters, depending on the results of the structural (static) calculations. The exact dimensions of the platforms and foundations at each proposed turbine location will depend on the specific turbine model to be installed.</p> <p>In the area where the wind farm will be constructed, a medium-voltage electrical infrastructure will be established to interconnect the turbines and link them to the substations. The wind park will then be connected to the MEPSO transmission network.</p> <p>Power generated will be collected by one substation and transmitted via above ground cables/overhead lines to the connection point.</p> <p>The wind turbines will be interconnected through a communication network and integrated into the central SCADA system. The SCADA system will provide real-time monitoring of turbine operation, fault detection, and remote control capabilities, enabling necessary operational interventions when required.</p> <p>The BESS installation will allow short-term energy storage, grid stabilization, and optimization of intermittent generation.</p> <p>All project components are designed in compliance with best engineering and environmental practices to minimize potential impacts on local biodiversity.</p>
<p>Description of purpose of proposed activity</p>	<p>The main objective of the project is to produce renewable electrical energy from wind sources and to integrate it effectively into the national grid through a supporting BESS system. The initiative aims to contribute to national decarbonisation targets, enhance grid stability, and ensure a reliable and continuous supply of clean energy.</p>

<p>Rationale for proposed activity (e.g. socio-economic basis, physical geographic basis)</p>	<p>The proposed project is based on a comprehensive multidisciplinary analysis of environmental, geomorphological, meteorological, regulatory, and socio-economic factors. The selected site offers favourable wind conditions.</p> <p>From a socio-economic standpoint, the project supports energy transition objectives, promotes regional development, and contributes to the diversification of the national energy mix.</p> <p>Environmental compatibility and long-term sustainability has been key guiding principles throughout the site selection and design process.</p>
<p>Additional information/comments</p>	<p>Detail spatial assessments and consultations confirm the absence of conflicts with legally protected and minimum impact on internationally designated area, or existing infrastructures. The project has been designed to ensure coexistence with other land uses, compliance with current legislation, and minimization of environmental impacts, during both construction and operation phases.</p>
<p>(ii) Information on the spatial and temporal boundaries of the proposed activity</p>	
<p>Location</p>	<p>The proposed wind farm is located in the North-eastern part of N. Macedonia, along the border line with Republic of Serbia, approximately 25 km North-east of the city of Kumanovo. The installation area covers roughly 85 ha in the Municipality of Staro Nagorichane, between the villages of Vragoturce and Malotino. The geographical coordinates of the 12 planned turbines, referenced to GPS (Global Positioning System) with precise geolocation, are provided in the ESIA Study.</p>
<p>Description of the location (e.g. physical-geographic characteristics, socio-economic characteristics)</p>	<p>The project area is located within the Geo-Tectonic Zone of the Serbian-Macedonian Massif, characterised by temperate continental climate, with clearly distinct seasons, moderate temperatures, hotter summers and colder winters.</p> <p>The Kozyak Mountain is elevated between the Pchinja River Valley to the North and West and the Kriva Reka River to the South. The mountain ridge with length of about 15 km, with arc extension in West – East direction.</p> <p>The silicate bedrocks of Kozyak Mountain are of volcanic origin, predominantly andesite. The soil is Smolnitsa, that refers to a type of dark-coloured, fertile clay soil, specifically classified as Vertisols. Both, the bedrocks and the soil type are providing suitable conditions for the construction of wind turbine foundations, and installation of wind turbines, substation and BESS facilities.</p> <p>Prevailing winds blow from the North, North-west direction, with average speeds that allow an annual gross energy production of approximately 137.5 GWh (before losses).</p>

<p>Rationale for location of proposed activity (e.g. socio-economic basis, physical-geographic basis)</p>	<p>The selection of the Project Area was based on multidisciplinary assessments of wind resource availability, distance from the connecting point to the national grid, physical-geographic features of the site, absence of conflicts with the existing transport infrastructure, including roads, railways, waterways, pipelines and facilities that enable the movement of people and goods, as well as legally Protected Areas.</p> <p>The site offers optimal wind conditions, geologically suitable bedrocks for turbine foundations, elevation and proximity to existing grid infrastructure.</p> <p>From a socio-economic perspective, the project aligns with the objectives of the National Integrated Energy Plan, which targets significant increases in installed renewable capacity and deployment of storage systems.</p>										
<p>Time frame for proposed activity (e.g. start and duration of construction and operation)</p>	<p>The implementation schedule foresees the start of works in 2025 and completion of construction and commissioning by 2030, according to the following indicative timeline:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="630 842 1436 1279"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="630 842 1129 891">Activity</th> <th data-bbox="1129 842 1436 891">Period</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 891 1129 940">Permitting, Design, Engineering;</td> <td data-bbox="1129 891 1436 940">2025 - 2027</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 940 1129 1084">Construction of access roads and wind turbine foundations; fabrication of towers, wind turbines, substation and BESS facilities</td> <td data-bbox="1129 940 1436 1084">2028 – 2029</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 1084 1129 1196">Installation of wind turbines; Construction of transmission line, substation and BESS facilities</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1084 1436 1196">2028 – 2030</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 1196 1129 1279">Testing, commissioning and connection to National Grid</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1196 1436 1279">2029 – 2030</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Start of operations: 2030</p>	Activity	Period	Permitting, Design, Engineering;	2025 - 2027	Construction of access roads and wind turbine foundations; fabrication of towers, wind turbines, substation and BESS facilities	2028 – 2029	Installation of wind turbines; Construction of transmission line, substation and BESS facilities	2028 – 2030	Testing, commissioning and connection to National Grid	2029 – 2030
Activity	Period										
Permitting, Design, Engineering;	2025 - 2027										
Construction of access roads and wind turbine foundations; fabrication of towers, wind turbines, substation and BESS facilities	2028 – 2029										
Installation of wind turbines; Construction of transmission line, substation and BESS facilities	2028 – 2030										
Testing, commissioning and connection to National Grid	2029 – 2030										
<p>Maps and other pictorial documents connected with the information on the proposed activity</p>	<p>Detailed maps, and figures illustrating the geographical setting, geological framework, socio-economic issues and biodiversity features are provided in the accompanying documents, including (ESIA Study), Biodiversity assessment and evaluation study, site hydrogeology.</p>										
<p>Additional information/comments</p>	<p>The Project Area is completely included within the Candidate Emerald Site “German - Pchinja MK0000029” (last updated in December, 2024). The Project Area is also within the boundaries of the Important Bird Area (IBA) “River Pchinja - River Petroshnitsa - River Kriva Reka MK014”, as well as nearby Birds Migratory Flyway “Danube - Morava - Pchinja - Vardar”.</p> <p>Although NATURA 2000 sites, the Emerald Network Areas, and other Protected Areas in the European Union are not “NO GO ZONES” for wind energy projects, regulators take into account the high levels of sensitivity and consequent need for thorough assessment of projects that will potentially affect such sites.</p>										

	<p>Therefore, the Biodiversity Team of Consultants included in preparation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study for the Electricity Generation Wind Farm RAMNO Project strictly followed the guidance presented within the “Commission Notice C (2020) 7730 final, Brussels 18.11.2020: Guidance Document on Wind Energy Developments and EU Nature Legislation”.</p> <p>Consequently, all construction and operation phases will comply with national and international best practices to ensure minimal environmental impact and full consistency with applicable legislation.</p>
iii) Information on expected environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures	
<p>Scope of assessment (e.g. consideration of: cumulative impacts, evaluation of alternatives, sustainable development issues, impact of peripheral activities)</p>	<p>The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study considers all phases of the project lifecycle, including pre-construction monitoring, assessment and evaluation of biodiversity, construction phase, and operation phase.</p> <p>It analyses direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, as well as potential interactions with other existing or planned activities in the adjacent areas.</p> <p>The assessment addresses physical, biological, and socio-economic components, in line with National and EU Legislation.</p> <p>Alternatives regarding site selection, layout configuration, and transmission solutions were evaluated, with the objective of minimizing environmental impact and optimizing energy yield. Particular attention was given to sustainable development principles, including the protection of natural and semi-natural ecosystems, and compatibility with other land uses.</p>
<p>Expected environmental impacts of proposed activity (e.g. types, locations, magnitudes)</p>	<p>The project’s environmental impacts are expected to be moderate and mostly temporary or reversible in nature.</p> <p>During the construction phase, the main potential impacts concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fragmentation and Degradation of Habitat Types: “6220* Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the Thero-Brachypodietea” and “8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation”; • Degradation of Riparian Vegetation of Habitat Types: “91E0* Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)” and “92A0 <i>Salix alba</i> and <i>Populus alba</i> galleries”, during construction an overpass across Pchinja River; • Population Degradation of Legally Protected, Threatened, Restricted-range and Endemic Plant Species, that will be impacted by construction of Access Roads and Wind Turbine Foundations: <i>Fritillaria gussichiae</i>, <i>Verbascum lesnovoensis</i>, <i>Dianthus ernesti mayeri</i>, <i>Galium macedonicum</i>, <i>Moenchia graeca</i>, <i>Pulsatilla montana slaviankae</i>, <i>Sedum aetnense</i>, <i>Anacamptus laxiflora</i> and <i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>; • Minimal negative impacts on fish and other aquatic fauna could be expected if lorries with construction materials drive across Pchinja River, by using temporary, unofficial passages (ford crossings) that local community uses during the Summer Season;

- Increased levels of noise, pollution, disturbance and human presence during Construction Phase will be detrimental to Amphibians and Reptiles. Direct killing of individuals (on access roads, during access roads construction and operation);
- Direct Adverse Impact on nearby nesting birds within the period April-June. Temporary Moderate Impact on Target Bird Species susceptible to collisions with Wind Turbines and IBA MK014 Trigger Species;
- Temporary Moderate Impact on Bats (Cave Dwelling & Forest Dwelling) due to blasting a passage through rocks, during construction of access roads and Wind Turbine Foundations can induce disturbance of bat populations when roosts are located near the construction sites and can trigger the desertion of these roosts;
- Indirect adverse impact on Forest Dwelling Bats, by cutting old trees (on access roads, during access roads construction);
- The project implementation will not compromise the integrity, conservation objectives and/or biodiversity importance of the designated areas: “Candidate Emerald Network Site: MK000029 German-Pchinja” and the Important Bird Area: MK014 River Pchinja-River Petroschnitsa-River Kriva Reka.

During the operational phase, expected impacts include:

- Negligible impact on Habitat Types: “6220* and “8220 by traffic related pollution of vehicles that will be used for maintenance work, and Wind Turbines Pollutants, including air pollution, dust, chemical pollutants resulting from spoils, oils, fuels, coolants and battery liquids;
- Negligible impact on Legally Protected, Threatened, Restricted-range and Endemic Plant Species: *Fritillaria gussichiae*, *Verbascum lesnovoensis*, *Dianthus ernesti mayeri*, *Galium macedonicum*, *Moenchia graeca*, *Pulsatilla montana slaviankae*, *Sedum aetnense*, *Anacamptus laxiflora* and *Dactylorhiza sambucina*;
- No potential impact on aquatic fauna in Pchinja River: Noble Crayfish (*Astacus astacus*); Target Fish Species: Black Barbel/ Large Spot Barbel (*Barbus balcanicus*), Balkan Golden Loach (*Sabanejewia balcanica*), Vardar Bitterling (*Rhodeus meridionalis*), Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*);
- Minor adverse impact on Amphibians and Reptiles, such as vibrations caused by rotor blades of the Wind Turbines and Accidental Road Casualties as a result of traffic of Wind Turbines maintaining vehicles on access roads during Breeding Season (April-June);
- Moderate impact on Target Bird Species susceptible to collisions with Wind Turbines: Rock Partridge (*Alectoris graeca*), Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), European Honey-buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Short-toed Snake-eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Eurasian Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), Lanner Falcon (*Falco biarmicus*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*);
- Moderate impact on IBA MK014 Trigger Species of Birds susceptible to collisions with Wind Turbines: Rock Partridge (*Alectoris graeca*), Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), Eurasian Eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*), Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), Short-toed Snake-eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Lanner Falcon (*Falco biarmicus*);
- Minor impact on Forest Dwelling Bat Species of the genera *Nyctalus*, *Pipistrellus*, *Vespertilio* and *Eptesicus*. The population density of Bat Species recorded on the RAMNO Sensu Stricto Project Area (in close distance to the Wind Turbines) is extremely

	<p>low. The Cave Dwelling Species, that are under Legal Protection, and listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, are not present in the vicinity of the Wind Turbines Project Area.</p> <p>Cumulative effects were assessed in relation to other traffic and energy projects, and no significant transboundary or synergistic impacts were identified.</p>
<p>Inputs (e.g. raw material, power sources)</p>	<p>The project requires typical materials and resources for wind farm energy infrastructure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steel and concrete for turbine foundations and tower structures; • Electrical power and control cables ,transformers, substation and BESS equipment; • Power supply from the national grid during construction for commissioning and safety systems; • No hazardous or radioactive substances will be used. <p>Raw material requirements are limited to standard industrial products compliant with EU standards.</p>
<p>Outputs (e.g. amounts and types of: emissions into the atmosphere, discharges into the water system, solid waste)</p>	<p>During construction, outputs consist primarily of inert materials and minor quantities of packaging waste, all managed according to National Waste Regulations.</p> <p>Atmospheric emissions will derive mainly from vessel engines and construction machinery but will remain temporary and localized.</p> <p>No wastewater discharges into the Pchinja and Bistritsa Rivers are foreseen, as appropriate measures will be implemented.</p> <p>During operation, emissions will be negligible: the plant produces renewable electricity with zero CO₂ emissions and no solid or liquid waste generation.</p> <p>Noise and electromagnetic emissions remain well below applicable regulatory thresholds.</p>
<p>Transboundary impacts (e.g. types, locations, magnitudes)</p>	<p>The wind turbines are located in a row along the Kozjak Mountain Ridge, in close vicinity to the border with Republic of Serbia. The upper course of Pchinja River is located in Serbia. The middle course of the river is relatively close to the Project Area. The access road will pass across Pchinja River.</p> <p>Transboundary impacts on Aquatic fauna of Pchinja River will be avoided by construction of an overpass across Pchinja River on the access road to the Project Area.</p> <p>Both the Internationally Recognised Area of Biodiversity Value: Important Bird Area: “MK014 River Pchinja-River Petroschnitsa-River Kriva Reka”, and the Officially nominated candidate Emerald Network Site of December 2024, under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats: “MK0000029 German Pchinja” are extending up to the border with Republic of Serbia.</p> <p>Covering an area of 84,938 hectares, the IBA MK014 stands as the second largest among Macedonia's 22 IBAs. The candidate Emerald Network Site “MK0000029” covers an area of 63,490 ha. On the other hand, the RAMNO Wind Farm Project</p>

Area covers an area of less than 80 ha, which is 0.1% of the territory of the Emerald Site and only 0.09% of the IBA Site.

Following the Bird Life International IBA Criteria, fifteen bird species have been identified as “trigger species” for designation of the IBA MK014 in 2008. Most important species for the IBA MK014 is the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), classified as Threatened Species by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, included in the Category of Endangered (EN) Species on Global Level, and in the Category Vulnerable (VU) Species on European Level. The Egyptian Vulture has not been recorded during the one-year surveys of birds within the Project Area, as well as within the wider neighborhood (IBA MK014 and Emerald Network Site “MK0000029).

The second Threatened Species is the Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), which is classified as Threatened Species by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, included in the Category of Vulnerable (VU) Species on Global Level. The nearest documented nesting territory of Imperial Eagle to the Project Area is situated in the vicinity of the village of Dobracha, approximately eight kilometers away from the RAMNO Wind Farm Project Area.

The Project Area is located in a close distance of the Secondary Birds Migration Route Danube-Morava-Pchinja-Vardar-Aegean Sea.

Monitoring of Migratory Bird Species, within the Spring/Autumn period was conducted from two Observation Sites (OS).

Historical data shows that abundant flocks, especially of Wading Birds were regularly using this Migration Route, during the Spring and Autumn Seasons.

During the Surveys, presence of migrating flocks of Wading Birds along Pchinja River has not been recorded.

The absence of Migrating Birds along the Danube-Morava-Pchinja-Vardar Migratory Route is caused by anthropogenic influence, through destruction and degradation of important Stopover Habitats located along the Migration Route, especially desiccation of wetlands along the Vardar River, like the case with Katlanovo Wetland.

Stopover habitats are essential to successful bird migrations. Migrating birds need these critical stopover locations strategically located along the migration routes (patches of woods, wetlands, mudflats, and river banks) with adequate food and shelter ensure the survival of a species. A migrating bird faced with the dilemma of a stopover site having disappeared may not have any viable options. Without places along the way that provide an adequate food supply for the quick replenishment of fat reserves, shelter from predators, and water, will cause declines in the numbers of many migratory bird species.

	<p>Altogether, 13 Primary Target Species of Birds, sensitive to collisions with Wind Turbines, have been selected during the Surveys. All observed Target Species in the Project Area, were present in collision risk window, and collision risk assessments were conducted for these species. The Collision Risk Model (CRM) indicates a very low annual collision rate when adjusted for avoidance.</p> <p>Anticipated collision rates are likely to be highest among the five most frequently encountered bird species: Eurasian Buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>), Long-legged Buzzard (<i>Buteo rufinus</i>), Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>), Short-toed Snake-eagle (<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>), and Common Kestrel (<i>Falco tinunculus</i>). The remaining observed species exhibited very low CRM rates.</p> <p>Transboundary impact on bats will be negligible, since almost all of the recorded Forest Dwelling Bat Species were concentrated to the riparian belt along Pchinja River. The Cave Dwelling Bat Species were using old abandoned houses in the Village of Vragoturce and old abandoned mines as winter shelters, both far from the Project Area.</p> <p>Consequently, the proposed activity on the Wind Farm RAMNO is not expected to cause measurable transboundary environmental impacts under Article 3 of the Espoo Convention.</p>
<p>Proposed mitigation measures (e.g. if known, mitigation measures to prevent, eliminate, minimize, compensate for environmental effects)</p>	<p>A comprehensive mitigation strategy is integrated into the project design, focusing on the prevention, minimization, and compensation of environmental effects.</p> <p>Construction phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize the Fragmentation and Degradation of Habitat Types: “6220* Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the Thero-Brachypodietea” and “8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation”. Existing local roads, that lead to the Wind Turbines, should be used as access roads, as much as possible. For the construction of access roads, turbine foundations, worker camps, warehouses, parking places and utility service areas, clearance of vegetation should be limited to the surface occupied by these infrastructures. The stripped top soil, by vegetation removal, should be stored by Good International Practice and used for reinstatement of areas that will be used as temporary infrastructures (only during the construction phase); • Minimize the impacts on Riparian Vegetation of Habitat Types: “91E0* Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)” and “92A0 <i>Salix alba</i> and <i>Populus alba</i> galleries”, during construction an overpass across Pchinja River, and access road along the Pchinja River Belt of Riparian Vegetation. Avoid using the existing ford crossing; • Undertake translocation of the following Plant Species Specimens: <i>Fritillaria gussichiae</i>, <i>Verbascum lesnovoensis</i>, <i>Dianthus ernesti mayeri</i>, <i>Galium macedonicum</i>, <i>Moenchia graeca</i>, <i>Pulsatilla montana slaviankae</i>, <i>Sedum aetnense</i>, <i>Anacamptus laxiflora</i> and <i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i> from areas that will be impacted by construction of Access Roads and Wind Turbine Foundations by Ecological Clerk of Work (ECoW), during initial vegetation removal (ground clearance). • Best practice pollution prevention should be followed and incorporated to avoid contamination of Pchinja and Bistritsa Rivers,

to minimize adverse impact on target species of aquatic fauna: Noble Crayfish (*Astacus astacus*), Black Barbel/ Large Spot Barbel (*Barbus balcanicus*), Balkan Golden Loach (*Sabanejewia balcanica*), Vardar Bitterling (*Rhodeus meridionalis*); Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*).

- Minimize disturbance by reducing construction activities during the main breeding season of Amphibians and Reptiles.
- Monitoring and translocation of individuals (Amphibians) from access roads, to be carried out by Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) during breeding Season (April-June), upon each alert by the Contractor's officials.
- Minimize accidental road casualties on access roads of Amphibians and Reptiles (frogs, toads, tortoises, lizards and snakes), by reducing moving vehicles' speed upto 30 km/h.
- Minimize the Noise Disturbance Activities, during the breeding Season of Birds (April-June) in case nests are found within 200 meters far from working areas, by reducing the intensity and/or extent of impacts that cannot be completely avoided.
- Brief all site staff on procedures to be implemented if any nest or nesting birds are found within the construction area. Stop the work in the area until biodiversity specialist advice is sought and implemented.
- Minimize Rock Blasting on access roads construction during the Breeding Season of Birds in the close vicinity of recorded Nesting Sites of Primary Target Species susceptible to Collissions and IBA Trigger Species.
- Use the existing local roads, that lead to the Wind Turbines, as access roads, as much as possible;
- Avoid or if it is not possible, minimize the adverse impact on bats, by cutting old and/or dead trees while widening the access road to Wind Turbines T12; T9; T5; T10; T11; and T3, by construction Pchinja River overpass, or using the existing ford crossing, within the Pchinja River Riparian Vegetation Belt.
- Avoid or if it is not possible, minimize the adverse impact on bats, by cutting old and/or dead trees while widening the access road to Wind Turbines T4; T6; T7; T8; T2 and T1, that goes from the village of Malotino to the villages of Bukovljane and Mglence, and passes through an old Oak Forest, especially to protect the roosting sites of the rare Bat Species Barbastelle Bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*).

Operational phase:

- Habitat Types & Plant Species: Best practice pollution prevention should be followed and incorporated to avoid contamination of Terrestrial Habitats. Flow of wind turbines related pollutants will be managed through appropriate methods.
- Aquatic fauna in Pchinja River: No Mitigation measures are predicted;
- Amphibians and Reptiles: The Project Implementation Impacts on Amphibians and Reptiles, during the Operation Phase, will be less adverse, in comparison with the Construction Phase, since the traffic frequency on the access roads will be highly reduced.
- Avoid/Minimize Accidental Road Casualties of Amphibians and Reptiles (salamanders, frogs, toads, tortoises, lizards and snakes) as a result of traffic of Wind Turbines maintaining vehicles on access Roads during Breeding Season (April-June), by reducing moving vehicles' speed up to 30 km/h.
- Target Bird Species Susceptible to Collissions with Wind Turbines: Rock Partridge (*Alectoris graeca*), Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), European Honey-buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Short-toed Snake-eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Eurasian Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Long-legged

	<p>Buzzard (<i>Buteo rufinus</i>), Common Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>), Eurasian Hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>), Lanner Falcon (<i>Falco biarmicus</i>), Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IBA MK014 Trigger Species of Birds Susceptible to Collisions with Wind Turbines: Rock Partridge (<i>Alectoris graeca</i>), Black Stork (<i>Ciconia nigra</i>), Eurasian Eagle-owl (<i>Bubo bubo</i>), Long-legged Buzzard (<i>Buteo rufinus</i>), Short-toed Snake-eagle (<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>), Lanner Falcon (<i>Falco biarmicus</i>). • The Project Implementation Impacts on Birds, during the Operation Phase, will be more adverse, in comparison with the Construction Phase. Estimating the magnitude of this risk is challenging based on current understanding of the risks posed by Birds Collisions with Wind Turbines. Reduce the risk of collision of birds with Wind Turbines and bird fatality by increasing their visibility by painting the turbines' blades. This is considered as primary mitigation that needs to be built into the project technical design and further discussed with relevant environmental authorities. Regular clearance of vegetation around Wind Turbines to minimize the attractiveness of preys of predatory birds and discourage of birds from perching near the turbines. Design and implement an operational monitoring program to assess eventual bird mortality due to collision with the Wind Turbines. This survey will be carried out in accordance with the Scottish National Heritage Guidance (SNH, 2014), or equivalent standards, during first three years of the project operation. Monitoring will be designed such that the data enables specific questions to be answered. For species of concern, and possibly others, thresholds of significance should be developed with a local ornithological specialist, such that when the anticipated rates of possible fatalities cross this threshold, adaptive measures could be employed. • Bats: Remove the trees present in radius of 200 m, around each Wind Turbine. As much as 98% of the bats killed at wind turbines in Europe belong to one of the high-risk species in the genera <i>Nyctalus</i>, <i>Pipistrellus</i>, <i>Vespertilio</i> and <i>Eptesicus</i>. The population density of Bat Species recorded on the RAMNO Sensus Stricto Project Area (in close distance to the Wind Turbines) is extremely low, and consisted of species belonging to the same genera. • The Cave Dwelling Species of Bats, that are under Legal Protection, and listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, are not present at the Wind Turbines Project Area. <p>Continuous biodiversity monitoring should be conducted during and after construction phase, to verify effectiveness of mitigation measures and ensure adaptive management.</p> <p>All measures comply with EU and National Environmental Legislation and align with the principles of the Espoo Convention and the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.</p>
Additional information/comments	/
(iv) Proponent/developer	
Name, address, telephone and fax numbers	<p>Apex Energy Dooel Skopje Furkan Kiraç / Investment Development Manager +90 5348440360 fkirac@soyakenergy.com</p>
(v) EIA documentation	

Is the EIA documentation (e.g. EIA report or EIS) included in the notification?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially <input type="checkbox"/>
If the answer to the above is no or partially, description of additional documentation to be forwarded and (approximate) date(s) when documentation will be available	/
Additional information/comments	/
2. POINTS OF CONTACT	
(i) Points of contact for the possible affected Party or Parties	
Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the EIA (refer to decision I/3, appendix) - Name, address, telephone and fax numbers	Mr. Zoran VELJKOVIC Head of Section for EIA of Projects and Activities Ministry of Environmental Protection 1 Omladinskih Brigada Str. 11070 BELGRADE Telephone: +381 11 3131 356 E-mail: zoran.veljkovic@eko.gov.rs
List of affected Parties to which notification is being sent	Republic of Serbia
(ii) Points of contact for the Party of origin	
Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the EIA (refer to decision I/3, appendix) - Name, address, telephone and fax numbers	Biljana PETKOSKA Head of Department for Environment Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning Presveta Bogorodica Square No.3, 1000 Skopje Republic of North Macedonia E-mail: b.petkoska@moepp.gov.mk
Decision-making authority if different than authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the EIA - Name, address, telephone and fax numbers	/
3. INFORMATION ON THE EIA PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IS LOCATED	
(i) Information on the EIA process that will be applied to the proposed activity	
Time schedule	The expected duration of the national EIA procedure is about twelvemonths.

Opportunities for the affected Party or Parties to be involved in the EIA process	Yes
Opportunities for the affected Party or Parties to review and comment on the notification and the EIA documentation	Yes
Nature and timing of the possible decision	
Process for approval of the proposed activity	In compliance with the environmental legislation of the Republic of North Macedonia (Law on Environment), the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning is the competent authority for issuing the EIA decision. The remaining steps for the Ramno project are as follows: -Report on the adequacy of the study -Public consultations in the affected municipalities; -Issuance of final decision by the Ministry.
Additional information/comments	
4. INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	
Public participation procedures	In accordance with the Macedonian legislation, the public is entitled to access to the EIA documentation for a period of 30 days. The public hearing is holding before issuing the report of adequacy. The public is entitled to prepare written comments or to discussion during the public hearing or to submit them in writing. Minutes shall be prepared during the public discussions.
Expected start and duration of public consultation	
Additional information/comments	
5. DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE	
Date	The affected Party is kindly requested to provide its response to this notification within 60 days from the date of receipt, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 3, of the Espoo Convention. Extensions may be agreed upon between the Parties if additional time is needed for internal consultation or translation of documents.

Annexes to the Notification:

- **Annex I** Detail description of the proposed activity;

- **Annex II** Schemes/ maps/ of the planned infrastructure – locations and routes with parameters.