

Wind power projects – how they are processed from start to finish

Start up

A wind power project often begins with a wind power company checking where the best wind conditions are to be found and on this basis finding areas with sufficient distance to residential housing. The company also checks that there are no other restrictions, for example, national interests, major culture value or nature value or the like that may prevent construction.

(A landowner may also contact a wind power company if he or she considers that a particular piece of land might be of interest for wind power.)

The wind power company contacts the landowners in the area who are interested in wind power. If they agree, a contract is drawn up, which among other things specifies compensation for encroachment onto their land.

There are now two possible courses of action:

An Environmental Permit or an Environmental Application with a building permit

Application can be made for an **Environmental Permit** from the county administrative board if:

- there are two or more turbines, each of which, including rotor blades, is taller than 150 metres
- there are seven or more wind turbines taller than 120 metres total height, in a group
- each additional turbine, which together with those turbines already erected, implies
- that the limit for the permit has been reached according to the above

Consultation with the county administrative board and municipality

The wind power company contacts the county administrative board of the municipality to meet and discuss the area and the preconditions that apply.

The company will often be given advice on the surveys that have to be carried out.

Consultation with the general public

The company informs those people who are considered to be affected. This might be by means of written information or through an open consultation meeting. The company announces the consultation meeting in the local newspapers. The general public has the opportunity of making its views known to the company and requesting a photomontage be made.

Application for an environmental permit with an environmental impact assessment (EIA)

The company submits its documentation to the county administrative board together with an application.

Supplementation round

The municipal environment and building office receives the documents so that they can examine them to check that everything necessary is included; otherwise they request supplementary documentation. The environment and building committee and the

municipal executive board are informed that an application has been submitted to the county administrative board.

The county administrative board requests opinions from various authorities, including the environment and building committee

The environment and building committee submits an opinion to the county administrative board.

Accept or reject

The county administrative board communicates with the municipal executive board, asking whether the municipality agrees to the establishment or not. (If the municipality says no, then this no stands. If the municipality says yes, then the county administrative board can say no, if they consider that the establishment is not acceptable from their viewpoint.)

Public announcement

The application and the environmental impact assessment are published in the local newspaper with a note that anyone wishing to comment on the matter must do so within a certain stated period of time. The company will subsequently be given the opportunity of responding to any comments submitted.

Decision

The environmental assessment delegation takes a decision on the matter. The decision is published in the local newspaper. The decision is sent to the company that has submitted the application and to those people who have submitted comments.

Appeal

All the parties concerned can appeal within three weeks to the Environmental Court.

Legal force

If there has been no appeal by anyone within three weeks the matter gains legal force.

Environmental application and application for a building permit

is submitted to the municipal environment and building office when the matter concerns:

- a wind turbine taller than 20 metres including rotor blades
- two or more wind turbines standing together
- each additional turbine standing together with another wind turbine
- wind turbines placed at a distance from the boundary of less than the height of the turbine above the ground

Application and building permit

An application for environmentally hazardous activity and an application for a building permit are submitted to the municipal environment and building office in good time before the work is planned to start. The application should contain, among other things, technical descriptions and a description of the environmental consequences arising from the establishment of a wind turbine. Application for a building permit for the same wind turbine should be dealt with at the same time as the environmental application.

Consultation

Authorities, organisations and individuals who may have an interest in the establishment of a wind turbine will be given the opportunity of commenting on the

matter. The company will subsequently have the opportunity of responding to any comments submitted.

Grant of a building permit and approval of the environmental application

When the necessary investigations are complete, the application for a building permit will be granted or rejected.

When the documents in the environmental application are complete, a decision is taken at a meeting of the environment and building committee. The decision could be:

- That no action will be taken in the matter on the part of the environment and building committee.
- That the company is directed to take certain precautionary measures.
- That the company is directed to apply for permission according to the Environmental Code.

Appeal

If, within three weeks, no appeal has been lodged against the matter, the decision gains legal force.

The Environment and Building Office, Ljungby Municipality 13-4-2010
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