

**BUSINESS
FINLAND**

A permit process under the Environmental Protection Act in Finland



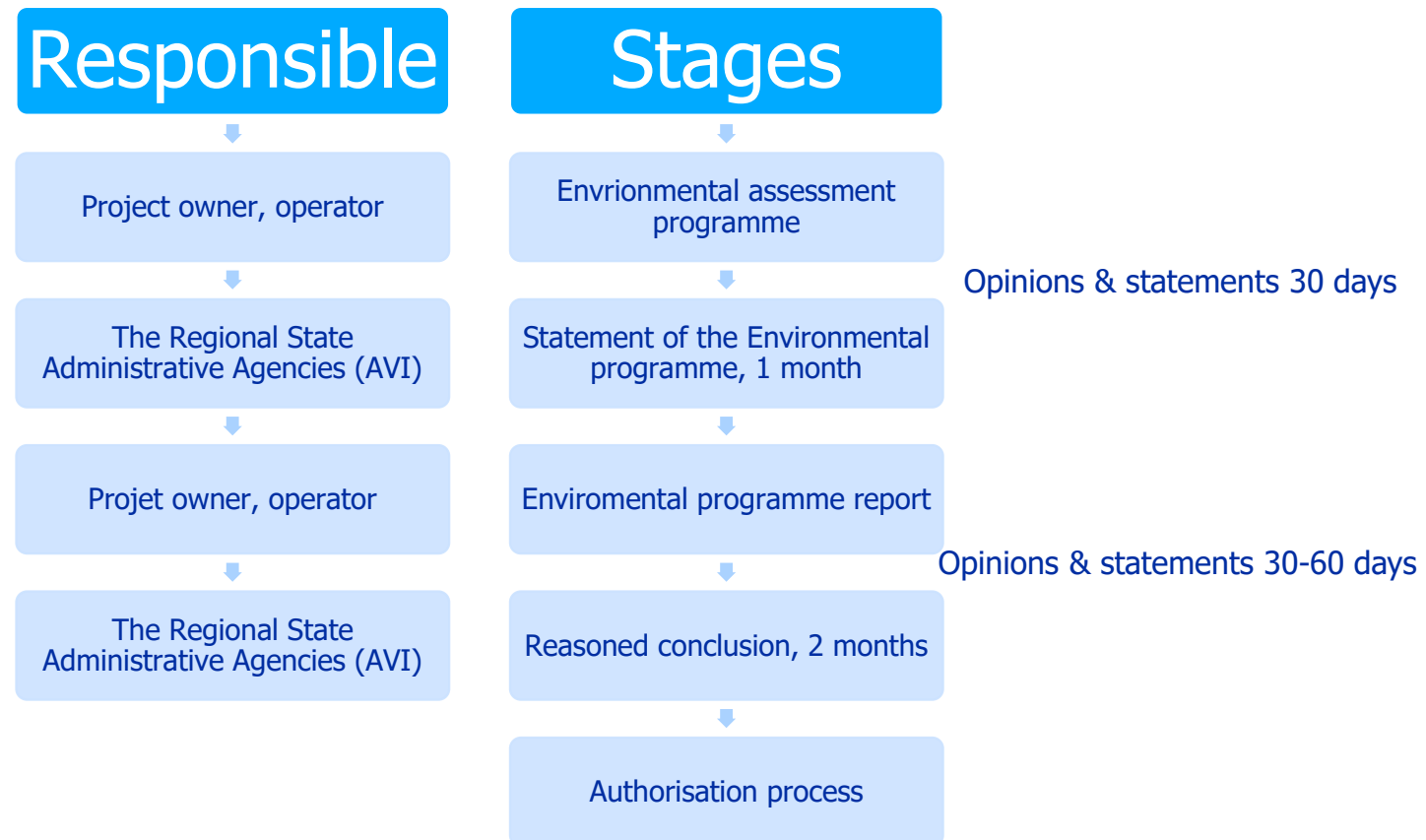
Pre-Consultation (Environmental Protection Act 8 §)

<https://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/2014/en20140527.pdf>

- Before submitting the EIA program or during the assessment procedure, the contact point may, on its own initiative or at the request of another relevant authority or project promoter, hold a prior consultation in cooperation with the project promoter and key authorities.
- The aim of the preliminary consultation is:
 - to better manage the entirety of the evaluation, planning and permitting procedures required by the project
 - the exchange of information between the project promoter and the authorities
 - improve the quality and usability of reports and documents
 - streamline procedures



Application process for the environmental permits



The environmental impact is assessed in the EIA procedure

- In other words, the direct and indirect effects of the project or activity in Finland and outside its territory:
 - a) population and human health, living conditions and well-being
 - b) land, soil, water, air, climate, vegetation, organisms and biodiversity (in particular species and habitats protected under Directives 92/43 / EEC and 2009/147 / EC);
 - c) community structure, tangible assets, landscape, cityscape and cultural heritage
 - d) exploitation of natural resources
 - e) interactions between the factors mentioned in points (a) to (d)

Content of the assessment program (3§ of the EIA Act)

- 1) a description of the project, its purpose, planning stage, location, size, land use need and connection of the project to other projects, information on the person responsible for the project and an estimate of the project planning and implementation schedule
- 2) reasonable alternatives to the project
- 3) information on the plans and permits required for the implementation of the project
- 4) a description of the current state and development of the environment of the likely area of impact
- 5) a proposal for the identified and assessed environmental impacts (including transboundary environmental impacts and synergies with other projects), justification for the assessed limiting the environmental impact
- 6) information on the prepared and planned environmental impact studies and the methods used in the acquisition and evaluation of the material and the related assumptions
- 7) information on the qualifications of the authors of the evaluation program
- 8) a plan for the organization of the evaluation procedure and related participation, as well as their connection to the project planning and an estimate of the time of completion of the evaluation report.

Content of the assessment report (4§, EIA Act)...

- 1) a description of the project, its purpose, location, size, land use requirements, main characteristics including energy supply and consumption, materials and resources, likely emissions and residues such as noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, and emissions and residues that may cause water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, and the amount and quality of waste generated, taking into account the construction and operation phases of the project, including possible demolition and exceptional situations;
- 2) information on the persons responsible for the project, project planning and implementation schedule, the plans required for implementation, permits and comparable decisions, and the connection of the project to other projects;
- 3) a statement of the relationship between the project and its alternatives and the land use plans and the plans and programs concerning the use of natural resources and environmental protection relevant to the project;
- 4) a description of the current state of the environment in the impact area and its probable development if the project is not implemented;
- 5) an assessment of possible accidents and their consequences, taking into account the vulnerability of the project to major-accident and natural disaster risks, related emergencies and measures to prepare for such situations, including prevention and mitigation measures;
- 6) an assessment and description of the likely significant effects of the project and its reasonable alternatives on the environment;
- 7) where applicable, an assessment and description of transboundary environmental impacts;

... **Content of the assessment report**

- 8) comparison of the environmental impacts of the alternatives;
- 9) information on the main reasons for the choice of the chosen alternative or alternatives, including the environmental impact;
- 10) a proposal for measures to avoid, prevent, limit or eliminate the identified significant adverse environmental effects;
- 11) where appropriate, a proposal for possible monitoring arrangements for significant adverse environmental effects;
- 12) a statement of the stages of the evaluation procedure, including the procedures for participation and involvement in project planning;
- 13) a list of the sources used to prepare the descriptions and assessments included in the report, a description of the methods used to identify, predict and assess significant environmental effects, and information on the deficiencies and main uncertainties identified in compiling the required information;
- 14) information on the competence of the authors of the assessment report;
- 15) an explanation of how the opinion of the contact authority on the evaluation program has been taken into account
- 16) An illustrative summary of the information provided in paragraphs 1 to 15

Diagram of the permit procedure

