

St1

Oslo, 24. February 2020

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Grenslandet AS

## **Stop the industry developments in the nature of Finnmark**

**Finnmark contains several of Norway's largest intact natural areas. The realization of Davvi wind farm will transform this wonderful natural area into an industrial area, with major consequences for nature and for the Sami cultural landscape. We urge St1 to withdraw from the project as soon as possible.**

Grenslandet AS is planning construction of Davvi Wind Park, and has reported this to the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE). The wind farm is planned to consist of 100 to 267 wind turbines with a total installed capacity of up to 800 MW. The plan area has an area of approx. 78 km<sup>2</sup>. St1 is listed as one of the owners of Grenslandet AS.

The planning area for Davvi wind power farm is in Laksefjordvidda, one of the largest areas without major interventions in Norway. This arctic nature is undisturbed by industry and buildings, and one can walk for days surrounded only by nature, a totally unique experience. There are very few such areas left in Norway. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in August that almost three-quarters of the world's ice-free land is affected by human activities, and the remaining proportion is shrinking rapidly. Such large intact nature areas are thus very valuable and important to preserve - both for the outdoor experience and for nature's intrinsic value. Building hundreds of wind turbines with associated roads and construction sites in an area the size of Stavanger will for the foreseeable future destroy the priceless nature of Laksefjordvidda.

The area is very poorly mapped for biodiversity. However, we know that the Arctic is an important ecosystem. At first glance the area may seem like deserted stone rubble, but it is in fact the habitat for a number of species, several of them on the red list for threatened species. Here lives the rock ptarmigan, which is a bird species that Norway has an international responsibility to protect, and tiny beautiful flowers grow close to the ground. In the summer of 2016, a nesting of the critically endangered lesser white-fronted goose was discovered just over three miles from the plan area. Birds of prey such as ravens and snowy owls hunt for the lemmings and other small rodents. This area is an important route for Arctic foxes wandering between Varanger and Nord-Troms. To get a good overview of the diversity of species there is a need for thorough survey and field work, but we already know that the Arctic landscape is richer and more impressive than one might at first assume.

In addition to the great natural and landscape values, the area is very important for the Sami indigenous people. The sacred mountain Rásttigáisá is located in the immediate vicinity of the planning area for the wind farm, and construction will be very negative for the reindeer resources. The rocky mountain peaks are also important for the reindeer, as a refuge from troublesome insects. Reindeer herding is already under severe pressure from a number of developments, and this burden will soon make it impossible for the next generation to continue the traditional way of life.

**We strongly urge St1 to withdraw from the project.** The report from The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which came in May 2019, emphasizes that the natural crisis is as critical as the climate crisis, and there is growing public awareness that renewable energy cannot come at the expense of nature. Davvi wind farm will lead to a demolition of a very important natural area.

Locally there is public resistance, and the municipality of Tana has signalled that they will oppose the project. The Norwegian government has stated that local support and support will be crucial when considering future wind power projects, and in this case large protests from the local community can be expected. Developments in Frøya and Fosen show that local resistance can create big problems for developers, with delays and conflicts, and that it may be unwise for an investor to embark on such an unpopular project. We also believe that the development on Davvi will be contrary to Sections 1, 8 and 14 of the Nature Diversity Act in Norwegian law (naturmangfoldsloven).

By investing in Davvi wind turbines, St1 signals that they are willing to sacrifice natural and indigenous interests to make money. The debate about wind power in Norway in 2019 shows that there is great public resistance against wind power in pristine nature, and investors risk getting a very negative reputation by being involved in the Davvi. Indigenous rights are also protected by international conventions, and conflicts with indigenous peoples often receive a great deal of negative international attention.

We also refer to the responses to the announcement of Davvi wind farm from the Norwegian Ornithological Association and from Naturvernforbundet in Finnmark (in Norwegian):

[http://www.birdlife.no/innhold/bilder/2018/01/02/4890/uttalelse\\_davvi\\_vindkraftverk.pdf](http://www.birdlife.no/innhold/bilder/2018/01/02/4890/uttalelse_davvi_vindkraftverk.pdf)

<https://naturvernforbundet.no/getfile.php/13129915-1514833879/Fylkeslag%20-%20Finnmark/Dokument/horingsuttalelse%20NVFF%20NVE.pdf>

Overall, Davvi wind farm will be devastating for both natural values and local communities. We urge St1 to withdraw as soon as possible.

Sincerely

Naturvernforbundet  
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v/

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