

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

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UAB Ignitis Renewables Projektai 8
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**SCREENING CONCLUSION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR
THE INSTALLATION OF A 150 MW ELECTRICITY STORAGE SYSTEM IN THE KELMĖ
DISTRICT**

2025-

No. (30-2)-A4E-

1. Developer of the proposed economic activity (name of legal entity / name, surname of natural person, registered office address / address, telephone number, e-mail).

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2. Preparer of the environmental impact assessment documents (name of legal entity / name, surname of natural person, registered office address / address, telephone number, e-mail).

Public Institution Coastal Research and Planning Institute, 10-206 V. Berbomo Street, Klaipėda LT-92221, tel. No. +370 46 390 818, email: info@corpi.lt

3. Legal basis for carrying out screening for environmental impact assessment of the proposed economic activity pursuant to Article 3(2) of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Environmental Impact Assessment of Proposed Economic Activities, indicating the item(s) of Annex 2 to the Law.

Screening for environmental impact assessment is carried out for the proposed economic activity (hereinafter the PEA) that meets the criterion set out in sub-item 10.2 of Annex 2 to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of Proposed Economic Activities (hereinafter the EIA Law), namely the construction of urban development objects (except residential buildings where their construction is provided for in municipal-level master plans), including shopping or entertainment centres, bus or trolleybus depots, car parks or garage complexes, sports and wellness complexes, where the area occupied by the object and its appurtenances exceeds 1 ha.

4. Location of the proposed economic activity (county; municipality; eldership; city, town, village or single farmstead, street).

Location of the PEA is Kelmė District Municipality, Kražiai Eldership, Dvarviečiai Village, land plot cadastral No. 5407/0001:499.

5. Brief description of the proposed economic activity.

During the PEA, a battery energy storage system (hereinafter the BESS) of up to 150 MW capacity (up to 300 MWh energy capacity), together with its appurtenances, is planned to be installed in an area of

approximately 1.69 ha.

The works during the PEA are planned to be carried out in the following sequence: the fertile topsoil layer in the BESS and temporary area will be removed/stripped and transferred to a temporary storage location near the construction site; the soil beneath the topsoil will be excavated down to the stable base assessed in the technical design; the existing land reclamation system will be relocated and a new drainage system and water reservoir will be installed; a sand layer, i.e. frost-resistant soil, will be placed for hard surfaces; crushed stone will be placed on the sand, as the construction-site base, in the required locations, i.e. forming and compacting hard surfaces; roads, surfaces, kerbs and foundations will be installed; part of the surface will be excavated and underground ducts for electrical cables and water supply pipelines, if provided for, will be installed in its place; equipment will be installed on reinforced-concrete foundations (battery storage units, converters with transformers and circuit breakers, an enclosed intermediate 30 kV switchgear with an auxiliary transformer, a control panel container, an electricity generator with an above-ground fuel tank, etc.); lightning rods, lighting systems, a perimeter fence with gates and security camera systems will be installed; final surface formation and landscaping works will be carried out (spreading topsoil and sowing grass); the BESS will be connected to the existing transformer substation and commissioning works will be carried out.

The total area occupied by concrete foundations under the BESS units and by electrical cable trays may amount to up to 0.34 ha (to be specified during the design stage). The majority of the PEA territory is planned to be covered with a surface permeable to surface water: near or under the equipment and enclosed electrical cable ducts, crushed stone; for access by heavy vehicles and fire service vehicles to the main equipment, intermediate switchgear, water and fuel tanks and for circulation, compacted soil with sand and crushed stone or another hard road base from 6.0 m to 3.5 m wide.

The purpose of the 150 MW BESS is to store electricity by purchasing it from the grid and, where necessary, to transmit it through underground cable lines to the Dvarviečiai transformer substation and further to the electricity transmission networks. During operation, no products or goods will be manufactured.

All equipment required during the project will be delivered ready-made and fully assembled. Unloading, installation and fixing will take place on site. Concrete works will be carried out using freshly mixed concrete. Sand, crushed stone, concrete kerbs and underground cable ducts with covers will be used for arranging the project site. No hazardous chemicals and/or preparations (mixtures) or radioactive materials are expected to be used during the project.

During the construction stage, plastic packaging waste and small quantities of wooden, cardboard and paper and/or steel packaging waste will be generated. During operation of the PEA, continuous waste generation is not anticipated. Waste electrical and electronic equipment, as well as liquid or gaseous waste, is expected to be generated when replacing, repairing or modernising BESS components. Lithium-ion batteries, electrical and electronic equipment, refrigerant, battery cooling water-glycol solution, transformer oil, water contaminated with petroleum products or other chemical waste will be collected in dedicated closed containers and transferred to waste managers registered in the State Register of Waste Managers. During decommissioning, dismantled technological equipment and individual equipment parts will be transported to a storage, continued-use, sorting and recycling location specified by the operator, or handed over to a waste collection company authorised to manage such waste.

No water will be used during the PEA and no wastewater will be generated. The transformer for BESS needs is planned in an enclosed intermediate 30 kV switchgear, i.e. there is no risk of contaminating the surface of the territory. During operation of the PEA, contamination of a territory surface larger than 0.01 ha (100 m²) is not anticipated. Only in rare isolated cases (failures, accidents) is an oil spill possible into a 6-10 m² collection tank or pit. Spilled transformer oil will be collected immediately and will not enter the environment (the PEA territory).

During implementation of the PEA, a temporary and local increase in air pollution is possible due to the use of fuel-consuming equipment (earthworks, transport, construction and other machinery) during construction works. During operation of the BESS, while storing and transmitting/receiving electricity, air pollution is not anticipated. Temporary and permanent physical pollution (noise) will be generated during the PEA. Temporary physical pollution will be generated during construction and installation of the PEA. Permanent physical pollution (noise) will be generated during the economic activity. The main sources of continuous noise will be the power conversion system (PCS) converters and container-type battery energy storage units (BESUs), in which noise is emitted by fans.

Existing noise-generating objects are located in the vicinity of the PEA territory (Dvarviečiai transformer substation equipment and existing wind turbines), together with which the PEA may cause cumulative noise effects on the nearest residential environment.

6. Measures to avoid or prevent the anticipated significant adverse environmental impact and

the timetable for their implementation.

6.1. Before commencement of the activity:

6.1.1. Temporary storage sites for materials and construction machinery will be located outside the protection strips of surface water bodies.

6.1.2. Before earthworks are carried out, the upper fertile soil layer will be removed and stored separately. After construction works, the soil stored adjacent to the BESS territory will be spread and, where necessary, sown with a perennial grass mixture.

6.2. During the activity implementation stage:

6.2.1. Impermeable steel or concrete containment tanks or pits will be installed under each potentially polluting unit, such as a transformer, to collect petroleum products spilled during accidents.

6.2.2. Construction works are planned to be carried out only on working days during daytime.

6.2.3. For general firefighting of the entire BESS park and/or external cooling of equipment, a 90 m³ underground water reservoir with a hydrant is planned within the site boundaries (the final decision will be made during the preparation of the technical design). The reservoir will have automatic water-level and refill control.

6.3. If, during the ongoing activity, it becomes apparent that the environmental impact is greater than the indicators presented in the screening information or established in legal acts, the operator will be obliged to immediately apply additional environmental impact mitigation measures or reduce the scope of the activity/terminate the activity.

6.4. In all cases, the operator will be obliged to comply with all requirements of the legal acts regulating the relevant activity and, in the event of changes in the legal regulation, to change the activity indicators accordingly.

6¹ . Proposals from the public, and the conclusions and proposals of the environmental impact assessment entities.

The Kelmė District Municipal Administration, in accordance with Article 6(5)(5) of the EIA Act, is responsible for the environmental impact assessment of the proposed development and its potential environmental impact, taking into account the provisions of approved and valid spatial planning documents and the possibilities for amending them in accordance with the requirements of legislation, as well as the data from the municipality's environmental monitoring carried out in accordance with the law, stated in its letter No. (7.18. Mr) dated 7 May 2025 S-1491, the Šiauliai Department of the National Public Health Centre under the Ministry of Health stated that it had no comments or proposals regarding the screening information or the environmental impact assessment of the proposed development.

The Šiauliai Department of the National Public Health Centre under the Ministry of Health, in accordance with Article 6(5)(1) of the EIA Act, is responsible for assessing the potential impact on public health of the project's factors affecting public health; in its letter No. (6-23 14.3.5 Mr)2-19363 dated 13 May 2025, submitted a proposal to adopt a screening conclusion that an environmental impact assessment of the project is not required.

The Šiauliai Fire and Rescue Board of the Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior, in accordance with Article 6(5)(3) of the EIA Act, is responsible for potential incidents, emergencies and extreme situations that may arise during the implementation of the project, as well as for the measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate them and to deal with their consequences; in its letter No. 9.4-6-384/2025(11.6.76 E), stated that it had no proposals or comments regarding the screening information and did not submit a proposal that an environmental impact assessment was required for the project.

The Šiauliai Regional Branch of the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture, in accordance with Article 6(5)(2) of the EIA Act, is responsible for assessing the potential impact of the proposed development on immovable cultural heritage; in its letter No. (9.38-Š E)2Š-319 dated 5 May 2025, it stated that it had no comments on the screening information and did not propose that an environmental impact assessment be carried out for the proposed development.

In accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 7(4) of the EIA Act, from the date of receipt of the submitted information and the date of its publication, the public did not submit any proposals to the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the screening information and/or the environmental impact assessment of the PEA, nor did they participate in the screening process for the environmental impact assessment.

7. Reasons on which the screening conclusion was based.

7.1. The PEA territory does not border and does not fall within protected areas or areas of the European ecological network Natura 2000. The nearest area of the European ecological network Natura 2000, Pamedžiokalnės Forest (a site designated for the protection of habitats), is located approximately 7 km

from the PEA territory. Due to the sufficiently large distances to protected areas, no impact on protected areas and the values protected therein is anticipated.

7.2. Noise dispersion in the analysed territory was calculated using CadnaA software. It was calculated that during construction, when construction machinery is operating (working hours planned only during daytime, from 7:00 to 19:00), noise indicators at the nearest residential environment will reach Lday 52 dBA; during construction, noise indicators from heavy-vehicle traffic to/from the PEA territory at the nearest residential environment will reach Lday 62 dBA; during the operation stage of the PEA, noise indicators at the nearest residential environment will reach Lday 41.3 dBA, Levening 41.3 dBA and Lnight 41.3 dBA. The calculated forecast cumulative noise indicators in the nearest residential environment will reach Lday 52.6 dBA during construction; and during the operation stage of the PEA, Lday 44.2 dBA, Levening 44.2 dBA and Lnight 43 dBA. In accordance with the results of the performed assessment, the noise level caused by the PEA in the environments of the nearest residential buildings will not exceed the noise limit values established in Lithuanian Hygiene Standard HN 33:2011 “Noise Limit Values in Residential and Public Buildings and Their Environment”, approved by Order No. V-604 of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Lithuania of 13 June 2011 “On the Approval of Lithuanian Hygiene Standard HN 33:2011 ‘Noise Limit Values in Residential and Public Buildings and Their Environment’”.

7.3. During operation of the BESS, while storing and transmitting/receiving electricity, air pollution is not anticipated.

7.4. No water will be used during the PEA and no wastewater will be generated. The PEA developer plans to install approximately 80% of the territory surface as permeable to rainwater and snowmelt, i.e. not forming surface wastewater. Rainwater from electrical equipment containers and metal cabinets or buildings will also drain onto the territory surface, naturally infiltrate into the ground near the equipment, and surface wastewater will not accumulate.

7.5. In accordance with the map of the visual aesthetic potential of the landscape of the National Landscape Management Plan, approved by Order No. D1-703 of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania of 2 October 2015 “On the National Landscape Management Plan”, the PEA territory does not fall within the 27 areas and localities of especially protected national visual aesthetic potential, nor within very high and high aesthetic potential landscape complexes that are especially and moderately expressive. The PEA territory falls within visual structure type V1H2-b. The PEA will not have a significant adverse impact on changes to the landscape elements of the neighbouring surroundings.

7.6. The PEA territory does not fall within the boundaries of mineral resource areas; there are also no geotopes in the territory and no geological processes or phenomena, such as sinkholes, collapses or landslides, have been recorded; therefore, no adverse impact on these environmental elements is anticipated.

7.7. The PEA territory does not fall within natural grassland and forest habitats of European Community importance; no locations or growing sites of protected species have been recorded within the PEA territory and its immediate surroundings; the PEA territory does not cross or border forest areas; therefore, no adverse impact on these environmental elements is anticipated.

7.8. The PEA territory does not border or cross surface water bodies and does not border or fall within riparian protection strips or protection zones of surface water bodies; therefore, the PEA will not have an adverse impact on surface water bodies or the hydrological regime.

7.9. The PEA territory does not cross or border immovable cultural heritage properties or their protection zones; therefore, no adverse impact on immovable cultural heritage values is anticipated.

8. Adopted screening conclusion.

Pursuant to Article 7(5) of the EIA Law and taking into account the reasons set out above, the following screening conclusion is adopted – the environmental impact assessment of the PEA of UAB Ignitis renewables projektai 8, namely the installation of a 150 MW BESS in Kelmė District, is **not mandatory**.

The screening conclusion has been adopted on the basis of the screening information submitted, which is available on the Environmental Protection Agency’s website at <https://aaa.lrv.lt/> under the link ‘Areas of Activity’ > ‘Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)’ > ‘2025’ > ‘3’. *Information on the screening for environmental impact assessment for 2025 > Šiauliai County (16).*

9. The procedure for appealing against the screening decision is set out.

This decision may be appealed, at the appellant’s discretion, within one month of the date of its service (publication) to the Lithuanian Administrative Disputes Commission (A. Goštauto g. 12 – 100, 01108 Vilnius) or to one of its regional branches (Kaunas Regional Branch, Laisvės al. 36, 44240 Kaunas; Klaipėda Regional Branch, J. Janonio g. 24, 92251 Klaipėda; Panevėžys Regional Branch, Respublikos g. 62, 35158 Panevėžys; Šiauliai Regional Branch, Dvaro g. 81, 76299 Šiauliai) in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Pre-trial Examination of Administrative Disputes, or to the Regional Administrative Court (Vilnius Chamber, Žygimantų g. 2, 01102 Vilnius; Kaunas Division, A.

Mickevičiaus g. 8A, 44312 Kaunas; Klaipėda Division, Galinio Pylimo g. 9, 91230 Klaipėda; Šiauliai Division, Dvaro g. 80, 76298 Šiauliai; Panevėžys Regional Court, 62 Respublikos Street, 35158 Panevėžys, or via the Lithuanian Courts' e-services portal <https://e.teismas.lt>) in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Law on Administrative Proceedings of the Republic of Lithuania.

Director of the Pollution Prevention Department,
acting as deputy director

Dalė Amšiejienė

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY 2025- LETTER NO. (30-2)-
A4E – LIST OF ADDRESSEES**

To the Kelmé District Municipal Administration

Sent via e-delivery

To the National Public Health Centre under the Ministry of Health

Sent via electronic delivery

To the Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior

Sent via e-delivery

Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture

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Department of Environmental Protection under the Ministry of the Environment

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