

*Written by: Maret Laila Anti*

## **Davvi Wind power station**

Davvi wind power station is planned in the border areas between Lebesby and Tana municipalities to the east and Porsanger municipality in the west. The station will consist of 100 to 267 wind turbines with a nominal effect between 3 and 8 MW per turbine. The total effect will be up to 800MW. The land area required is 78 square kilometres.

The electricity from the station will be connected to the national grid by the building of a new power cable to Statnet's transformer station at Adamselv and of a power cable to the central grid in Finland.

The planned area is important to reindeer herders in Karasjok. It effects the second largest area of reindeer husbandry in Norway, Lágesduottar. The area also borders on three other reindeer districts and effects 62 concession holders.

According to the resource audit for reindeer husbandry 362 people are involved in these concessions, from children to old people who own reindeer and have their own reindeer identification mark. Of these around 50 *siida* shareholders pay taxes to Karasjok municipality and around 300 persons are involved in reindeer operations, accounting for over 100 man-labour years. Over 100 man-labour years in Karasjok municipality are endangered by the wind park project. (The relevant reindeer district has around 40 man-labour years and 20 herding concessions.)

## **Consequences of the development for the areas used by reindeer districts**

There are reindeer in this area all year round. It is used for spring and autumn pasture and in winter as a collection area for herd separation. It is especially important for the rut in autumn. In spring it functions as the migratory route for the herds on their way to the coast. Because of climate change, this area has become more important for reindeer husbandry in the past 10 years.

The wind park proposal will take up a large part of this area, not only the area planned for development but there will be cumulative effects that will give a larger loss. (ProtectSapmi can calculate exactly how many square kilometres will be lost.) The whole development, power lines, access roads and turbines, will go through the reindeer district and divide it.

Northeast of the proposed development lies Adamselv hydro-electric power station. The effect of this together with the wind park will make a large encroachment on the area. Today it already is challenging to for the herds to pass by because of the station itself, its power lines and the uncertain ice conditions. If the wind park is built it will become almost impossible for the reindeer to migrate and use the area for pasture. The areas where the Cultural wind turbines will be located are important mountainous area that reindeer use to avoid plagues of insects in the summer: Vilgesrášša (in the west), Oarje Borggašgáisa, Áškkasgáisa and Áškkasjávrrit (in the east, formally part of Borealis).

The high mountain areas are also important in spring, where the reindeer find *steinmose*, an essential resource for reindeer.

In late autumn the area is used for rounding up the herds before separating. Other reindeer districts will also be disturbed by a development. The loss of these areas will lead to extra pressure on other areas. The district's reindeer will migrate into areas belonging to other bordering districts, the 2 *siida* in reindeer district 14 A Spierttagáisa, reindeer district 14, Spierttanjárga and reindeer district 9 Čorgašnjárga. This will lead to much extra work and huge expenses for everyone in all these districts. Furthermore, it will certainly lead to conflicts and increased stress among herders.

A road is planned for the wind park. Our experience of constructing roads in connection with developments is that there will also be an increase in other activities in the surrounding areas. A road was built in connection with the construction of Adamselv power station. The general public now has access there for part of the summer, which disrupts reindeer in the area. The proposed 4.2 KW power line will disrupt the herds. Recent research shows that reindeer will avoid this area. Researchers at the University of Tromsø confirm these findings:

#### [Cryptic impact: Visual detection of corona light and avoidance of power lines by reindeer](#)

Several research papers show that reindeer do not go within a 5 km radius of wind turbines:

[Vindkraft og reinsdyr – en kunnskapssyntese](#). Strand, O., Colman, J.E., Eftestøl, S., Sandström, P., Skarin, A. & Thomassen, J. 2017. - NINA Rapport 1305. 62 s.

[Renar och vindkraft II - vindkraft i drift och effekter på renar och renskötsel](#) Skarin m.fl. 2016

[Renar och Vindkraft](#) - Skarin m.fl. 2013

[Spillningsinventering](#) - Anna Skarin och Maria Hörnell-Willebrand 2011

However, these studies were conducted in forest areas and may not be relevant for our district that has a different topography.

### **Encroachments in the districts**

The wind turbine proposal adds to the list of planned, ongoing and completed developments that encroach upon large parts of our district.

### **Completed and ongoing encroachments**

A few kilometers to the northeast of our district is the Adamselv power station. It was built in 1973 but there is ongoing construction activity and expansion, in the form of the damming of new lakes and drilling into mountain sides to make canals to lead water to the turbines.

Mårøyfjord power station has a hydro-electric station to the north of the district. Other developments: The building of the road to Nordkyn in the 1980s and recently the road to Nervei.

New power lines?

### **Proposed encroachments**

Applications for a concession for two more wind power projects are in the pipeline. Both are located to the northeast side of our district and will mean more loss of land areas:

[Laksefjord wind power station](#)

[Digermulen wind power station](#)