

9 February 2016

PRESS RELEASE

The OECD National Contact Points (NCPs) in Norway and Sweden call upon Statkraft and the Jijnjevaerie Saami village to improve their cooperation on wind power development in reindeer herding areas in Jämtland, Sweden. Complaint closed.

'The NCPs' mission is to promote the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and they have clear expectations of enterprises' conduct. In this case, we have examined Statkraft's assessment and handling of the risk of violating the Saami village's human rights through its wind power project. In the NCPs' view, Statkraft has complied with the OECD Guidelines, but we encourage the parties to demonstrate renewed willingness to reach agreement on the further development of the wind power project, say Ola Mestad and Kristin Pålsson, Head of the Norwegian and the Swedish NCP, respectively.

Brief description of the case:

In October 2012, Jijnjevaerie Saami village in Sweden (the Saami village) submitted a complaint to the Norwegian and Swedish National Contact Points for the OECD Guidelines. In its complaint, the Saami village claimed that Statkraft SCA Vind AB's (SSVAB) planned wind power project in Jämtland, Sweden, would limit the Saami village's possibility of continuing to pursue sustainable reindeer herding. The Saami village requested that the NCPs facilitate meaningful dialogue with Statkraft/SSVAB. In 2014, the NCPs facilitated external mediation, but the mediation was concluded without results. The NCPs have therefore assessed Statkraft's compliance with the OECD Guidelines, which they now present along with their recommendations for future cooperation. For various reasons, the process has taken a disproportionately long time, and the NCPs regret this.

The main question in the complaint is whether Statkraft/SSVAB have taken account of the Saami village's interests and respected their human rights in connection with the wind power project, including carrying out risk-based human rights diligence and consulting with the Saami village.

Main conclusions:

The NCPs have not found any grounds for concluding that Statkraft has failed to comply with the OECD Guidelines. The NCPs have pointed to some areas where there is room for improvement, including that Statkraft/SSVAB can work in a manner that even more clearly promotes indigenous people's rights and the implementation of the Guidelines. The NCPs recommend that the parties show renewed will to negotiate an agreement on the further development of the wind power projects.

For further information:

Ola Mestad, head of the Norwegian NCP: ola.mestad@jus.uio.no. Tel. (+47) 928 81 455

Kristin Pålsson, head of the Swedish NCP: kristin.palsson@gov.se Tel (+46) 8 405 3973

[About the OECD Guidelines and the Norwegian NCP](#)