

HSS Assessment Report for Hvalárvirkjun (Preparation Stage)

Following a scheduled review period VesturVerk ehf. received an updated Preliminary Assessment Report for the Hvalárvirkjun hydropower project on June 7th 2025.

To apply for Hydropower Sustainability certification the Preliminary Assessment Report needs to undergo a 60-day consultation period. For the Hvalárvirkjun report this period will take place from the 18th of August until the 17th of October 2025.

Distribution

The report will be distributed in the following manner, with the goal of ensuring that all key stakeholders and members of the nearby communities get a chance to review the report and submit comments.

Distribution	Description	Timing
VesturVerk's website	Publication on VesturVerk's website (www.vesturverk.is) both in Icelandic and English. A special page on the site has been created specifically for the public consultation process, where the report and comment submission form will be available in both languages. On the page there will also be a link to the corresponding HSA site.	Consultation and submission forms active for the whole period of the open consultation period: August 18 th to October 17 th 2025
HS Orka's website	On HS Orka's website there will be a link to the consultation page on VesturVerk's website. The public consultation process will also be advertised under "News" with links to the VesturVerk website, and the news will be shared on HS Orka's social media pages.	Information and links to be shared on HS Orka's website and social media platforms on or soon after August 18th, 2025.
Interviewees	Email notification, with information regarding the public consultation process, sent to all external stakeholders interviewed in the assessment process.	First week of public consultation period
Stakeholders	Same type of email notification as in point nr. 2, sent to stakeholders that weren't interviewed in the assessment process. The choice of stakeholders to be based on the stakeholder registry for Hvalárvirkjun and VesturVerk's aims for appropriate communication.	Second half of August 2025
Advertisements	Advertisements in local and regional news and information platforms (such as bb.is and popular Facebook pages for the region). Advertisements and other messaging of this sort will include a QR code to the relevant page on VesturVerk's website.	Active advertisements and sharing on relevant social media platforms in the first two weeks of the public consultation period. Targeted distribution of this sort in the second half of the consultation period also.
Advertisement by post to residents	An advertisement, with information about the assessment and the public consultation process, will be sent by mail (regular post service) to all members of a voting age in the most affected municipality (Árneshreppur). If some names or addresses are hard to confirm it may result in some members of the municipality not receiving this notification by post, but in such cases the expectation is that the other distribution channels will be sufficient.	Second half of August 2025