

Responsibly Produced Peat in process to grant certificate

Date of publication November 6, 2023

Responsibly Produced Peat intends to grant the RPP-certificate to the company named in this document. This intended decision is based on the fact that the company meets the requirements of the RPP certification scheme version 3.0. The fulfilment of the criteria is checked by an independent qualified inspector, including inspection at location.

During a period of 6 weeks, from **November 6 until December 18, 2023** Responsibly Produced Peat offers parties concerned the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed decision. Questions and comments can be sent to info@responsiblyproducedpeat.org. Without further objections, after this comment period, the certificate will be granted to the company for the location in concern.

Company name	SALDUS MELIORACIJA SIA Melioratoru iela 6, Namiki, Lutrinu pagasts, Saldus novads, Latvia
Extraction site	Name site: Spundini
	GPS coordinate entrance peatbog: Latitude : N 56.741122 Longitude: E 22.517002
	Total licensed area: 77,7 ha
	License information: License number CS18ZD0165
Site description	
<u>Environment of the location:</u> The site is surrounded by forest. In the west, behind a narrow belt of forest, there is agriculture. In the north there are partly older excavation sites that have been cleared in recent years and are now being taken up by herbaceous forest clearing vegetation e.g. wood small-reed or willowherb. Drained pine bog woodland is mainly found in the southern half of the buffer zone. To the south of the excavation site, there is a cranberry plantation on a former excavation site. In the east of the excavation site there is an elongated depression with a transition mire (habitat type 7140) with reed, deergrass, common cottongrass, typical dwarf shrubs of raised bogs and various peat mosses. It is surrounded by a moderately wet pine bog forest (91D0*), which probably developed on formerly more open raised bog stadiums. In the northeast and east there are several mixed spruce forests with trembling aspen and birch trees outside the bog, which correspond to the priority FFH habitat type 9010 * (Western Taiga). With the exception of minor deviations in the location of the FFH habitat types, these results coincide with those of the "OZOLS" information system (see figure 1). Link: https://ozols.gov.lv/pub	

Protected area:

Considering that the extraction site has been active since the 1960s, the continued existence of the wet FFH habitat types (7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs and 91D0* bog woodland) 200 m to the east of the extraction site indicates that there is no significant impact of peat extraction activities. During site inspection, it has been observed that further mitigation measures are not required.

Time in exploitation:

Peat extraction at the deposit was started in 1969. Until 1998 it was carried out by the Saldus Melioration Construction Board [Saldus meliorācijas celtniecības pārvalde]. Starting from 1998, peat extraction is performed by the "SALDUS MELIORACIJA" SIA.

Expected end of production based on peat reserves:

Approximate years till recultivation have been provided to RPP. Depending on the site section, extraction will end in 2 – 3 years up to 30 – 40 years (from 2023).

License valid till: 23.05.2032

Remarks resulting from inspection:

The company will have meeting with authorities in the 1st half of 2024 at the latest, to start restoration works in a small subfield.

Link to [location on Google earth](#)

See figure 2 for license boundaries.

Figure 1: Habitat types of the Habitats Directive in the surrounding of the Spundini excavation site (extracted from the information system "OZOLS") (orange with vertical shading = 7140, green = 9010*, green with cross shading = 91D0*)



Figure 2:

