

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: Vilisu
	GPS coordinate entrance peatbog: Latitude : N 56.799925 Longitude: E 22.360302
	Total licensed area: 183 ha
	License information: License number CS18ZD0165
Site description	
<u>Environment of the location:</u> The site is surrounded by forest. Apart from the south, behind a narrow belt of forest, there is agriculturally used land. Of the 400 m research buffer area, 22.70 hectares belong to habitat of the Habitats Directive. These habitat types are 7120 - Transition mires and quaking bogs, 9010 - Western Taïga and 91D0* - bog woodland. (Link to Map 1a northern area and Map 1b southern area) The OZOLS information system only indicates the habitat type 9010* (figure 1). In addition to the areas of habitat type 9010* also stored in the OZOLS information system, further areas of this habitat type have been added as a result of the site inspection. However, on slightly nutrient-richer soils, and with a higher proportion of aspen, it is partly the habitat type 9050 (Fennoscandian herb-rich forests with Picea abies). This habitat type was initially not mapped separately in Latvia, but referred to as 9010* (Auniņš 2013). 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 type (91D0* bog woodland) around the extraction site indicates that the degradation of conditions due to peat extraction is not significant.

Opportunities to improve the hydrologic situation for the surrounding habitats directive peatland forests have been discussed during the site inspection. The company agreed to close the small ditches that intersperse the swamp forest to the north.

Time in exploitation:

The deposit consists of two separate fields. The northern field of the deposit was put into operation in year 1967, while the southern field was put into operation in year 1969.

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: 08-07-2053

Remarks resulting from inspection:

- An old deep ditch in the northern border of the licence that is now dry will be closed
- An old field, previously (during the soviet time) used as bog-wood dumping ground will be cleaned to mitigate the additional GHG emissions.

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 Vilischi excavation site (extracted from the information system "OZOLS") (green = 9010*, green outline = Spruce forests rich in broadleaved trees).*



Figure 2: License boundaries

