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# *EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY*

Doc.No. 99-9355 I  
Dec.No. 327/99/COL  
Ref. No. SAM030.99004

EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY DECISION  
OF 16 DECEMBER 1999  
ON THE MAP OF ASSISTED AREAS AND LEVELS OF AID  
(AID NO. 99-004)

(NORWAY)

THE EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY,

Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area<sup>1</sup>, in particular to Articles 61 to 63 and of Protocol 26 thereof,

Having regard to the Agreement between the EFTA States on the establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice<sup>2</sup>, in particular to Article 24 and Article 1 of Protocol 3 thereof,

Having regard to the Authority's Guidelines<sup>3</sup> on the application and interpretation of Articles 61 and 62 of the EEA Agreement,

WHEREAS:

## **I. FACTS**

### **1. Procedure**

By letter of 4 November 1998 from the EFTA Surveillance Authority to the Norwegian Mission to the European Union (Doc. No: 98-7502 D), the Norwegian authorities were informed that the Authority had adopted new Guidelines on national regional aid.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, the Authority proposed, as appropriate measures under

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<sup>1</sup> Hereinafter referred to as the EEA Agreement.

<sup>2</sup> Hereinafter referred to as the Surveillance and Court Agreement.

<sup>3</sup> Procedural and Substantive Rules in the Field of State Aid (State Aid Guidelines), adopted and issued by the EFTA Surveillance Authority on 19 January 1994. Published in Official Journal L 231, 03.09.1994 and in the EEA Supplement thereto No. 32 on the same date, last amendment (21<sup>st</sup>) adopted by Decision 276/COL of 17 November (not yet published).

<sup>4</sup> Decision 316/98/COL of 4 November 1998.

Article 1(1) of Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement, that the EFTA States:

- a) limit the validity of all lists of assisted regions approved by the EFTA Surveillance Authority without an expiry date, or with an expiry date after 31 December 1999, to 31 December 1999;
- b) amend all existing regional aid schemes which will be in force after 31 December 1999, so as to make them compatible with the Guidelines applicable from 1 January 2000, and that they communicate the proposed changes within six months from the date of the decision.

By letter of 13 January 1999 from the Mission of Norway to the European Union, received and registered by the EFTA Surveillance Authority on 14 January 1999 (Doc. No: 99-333 A), the Norwegian authorities accepted the proposed measures.

By letter of 11 May 1999 from the Mission of Norway to the European Union, received and registered by the EFTA Surveillance Authority on 12 May 1999 (Doc. No: 99-3502 A), the Norwegian authorities notified, pursuant to Article 1(3) of Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement, a new map of assisted areas and levels of aid in Norway.

By letter dated 21 May 1999 (Doc. No: 99-3696 D), the EFTA Surveillance Authority acknowledged the receipt of the letter dated 11 May 1999 and requested additional information.

The notification was thereafter discussed with the Norwegian authorities on several occasions and additional information has been submitted by electronic mail.

By letter of 10 December 1999 from the Mission of Norway Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, received and registered by the EFTA Surveillance Authority on 14 December 1999 (Doc. No: 99-9607 A), the Norwegian authorities submitted an amended notification.

## **2. Background**

The current map of assisted areas for Norway was approved on 28 April 1998.<sup>5</sup> The population coverage and the applicable aid intensities are listed in table 1 below:

Table 1: Current map of assisted areas - population coverage and aid intensities

Target zones	Number of municipalities	Population coverage (1.1.1997)	General aid ceiling (NGE)	SME supplement (gross)
A	23	1.99%	30%	15%
B	127	10.69%	25%	5%
C	112	13.11%	15%	10%
Total	262	25.79%		

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<sup>5</sup> Decision 110/98/COL of 28 April 1998.

The total number of municipalities in Norway is 435. Target zone A covers the county Finnmark plus 4 municipalities of the county Troms. Target zone B covers the rest of Northern Norway (except the municipalities of Bodø and Tromsø) plus remote areas in Southern Norway. Target zone C covers other areas in Southern Norway plus the municipalities Tromsø (county Troms) and Bodø (county Nordland).

### **3. Description of the proposed map**

#### **3.1. Methodology and coverage**

On the basis of Art. 61(3)(c) of the EEA Agreement, the Norwegian authorities propose for the period from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2006 a method that is based on two sets of geographical units and five statistical indicators.

The geographical units are NUTS<sup>6</sup> level III (counties) and NUTS level V (municipalities). The three counties; Finnmark, Troms and Nordland (Northern Norway), consisting of 89 municipalities, are notified at NUTS level III. 177 municipalities (out of 346) in Southern Norway are notified at NUTS level V. The five statistical indicators are used to justify the selection of municipalities at NUTS level V in Southern Norway.

The indicators and the reasons for selecting them, as explained by the Norwegian authorities, are the following:

- Low percentage of population living in densely populated areas. According to the Norwegian authorities, this is an indicator of distance disadvantages. It illustrates distance to greater markets and larger transport and travelling costs, also in time. In addition, it illustrates more limited possibilities of alternative use of industrial buildings and of commuting to a larger centre, often outside the municipality;
- Population development. This is a broad indicator of long term historical trends in work force, work opportunities, offer of goods and services etc.
- Percentage of women between 20 – 39 years. The indicator measures the number of women in fertile age in the municipality and showing, in a longer term, the potential of birth rate, number of children growing up in the area etc. and possible future development in the population.
- Average income. The indicator illustrates the welfare situation in the municipality. It may also be seen as a substitute for gross regional product for which statistics are not produced on NUTS V level.
- Percentage unemployed. This indicator illustrates how the labour market functions.

The indicators are based on official statistics.

The total population coverage is 1 139 606 persons or 25.79% of the total population per 1.1.1998. The notified area is divided into three target zones; A, B and C. Table 2

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<sup>6</sup> NUTS = Nomenclature of Statistical Territorial Units in the European Communities

below shows the number of municipalities, population coverage and population density by target zones.

Table 2: Notified area

Target zones	Geographical area	Number of municipalities	Population coverage (1.1.1998)	Population density (inh./sqkm)
A	Finnmark + part of Troms	23	1.96%	1.6
B	Rest of Northern-Norway <sup>1</sup> + remote areas in Southern Norway	129	10.76%	3.7
C	Other areas in Southern Norway + Tromsø and Bodø	114	13.07%	6.5
Total		266	25.79%	4.2

<sup>1</sup> Except Bodø and Tromsø

### 3.2. Aid ceilings

Table 3 below shows the maximum aid intensities proposed by the Norwegian authorities.

Table 3: Aid intensities

Target zones	Geographical area	General aid ceiling (NGE)	SME supplement (gross)
A <sup>1)</sup>	Finnmark + part of Troms	25%	5%
B	Rest of Northern Norway <sup>2)</sup> + remote areas in Southern Norway	20%	5%
C <sup>3)</sup>	Other areas in Southern Norway + Tromsø and Bodø	10%	10%

1) It may in 2000 be given up to 30% NGE to large companies, + 10% gross to SMEs. In 2001 it may be given up to 30% NGE, + 5% gross to SMEs.

2) Except Tromsø and Bodø

3) Possible to give 5% NGE extra in cases where one can expect an extraordinary regional impact, with exemption of aid in the three counties Hordaland, Rogaland and Vest-Agder.

In Zone A, the general aid ceiling proposed is 25% NGE. On top of the prevailing rate SMEs may receive an extra 5 percentage points gross for investment. A transition period for zone A is proposed for 2000 and 2001 so that in 2000 the general maximum aid intensity is 30% NGE. On top of that rate SMEs may receive an extra 10 percentage points gross. In 2001 the general maximum aid intensity proposed will remain 30% NGE, and on top of that rate SMEs may receive an extra 5 percentage points gross.

The proposed aid ceiling for zone B is 20% NGE. On top of the prevailing rate SMEs may receive an extra 5 percentage points gross for investment. For zone C the proposed ceiling is 10% NGE. On top of the prevailing rate SMEs may receive an extra 10 percentage points gross for investment. An extra 5 percent may be applied to

the general aid ceiling of 10% NGE in cases where one can expect an extraordinary regional impact. The three counties Hordaland, Rogaland and Vest-Agder (25 municipalities in zone C) do not qualify for such a higher aid intensity, due to higher per capita GDP/PPS and a lower unemployment rate than the respective EEA average.

According to the Norwegian authorities, the ceiling of aid intensities in the different zones will be applied to all regional aid.

## **II. APPRECIATION**

### **1. Notification formalities**

Chapter 25.5.(1) of the Guidelines states that *"the regions of an EFTA Member State eligible under the derogations and the ceilings on the intensity of aid for initial investment or the aid for job creation approved for each region together form an EFTA State's regional aid map"*.

The establishment of the map itself does not involve aid in the meaning of Article 61(1) of the EEA Agreement. However, the authorisation of the map implies an endorsement of the granting of aid under the regional aid schemes. Furthermore, the approved maximum aid ceilings under the map will apply to these schemes.

The notifications dated 11 May 1999 (Doc. No: 99-3502 A) and 10 December 1999 (Doc. No: 99-9607 A) together constitute a complete notification. The Norwegian authorities have thereby fulfilled their obligations under Article 1(3) of Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement. Consequently, the EFTA Surveillance Authority is obliged to assess whether any of the exemption clauses under Article 61(2) or (3) of the EEA Agreement are applicable.

The Authority's examination of the notification is based on the criteria set out in Chapter 25.3.(13)-(17) and Chapter 25.4.(15)-(20) of the State Aid Guidelines.

### **2. Application of the relevant State aid rules**

#### **2.1. Methodology and coverage**

The Authority has noted that the Norwegian authorities have not claimed that Norway has any area that is eligible for regional aid under Article 61(3)(a) of the EEA Agreement.

In accordance with Chapter 25.3.(15)-(17) of the State Aid Guidelines, the Norwegian authorities have proposed a method with two statistical units and 5 indicators in order to establish the regions qualifying for exemptions under Art. 61(3)(c) of the EEA Agreement.

- Geographical units – Northern Norway

The Norwegian authorities have notified the counties Finnmark, Troms and Nordland (Northern-Norway) on the basis of Chapter 25.3.(17) of the Guidelines which states

that "subject to the ceiling for each Member State mentioned in paragraph (12), regions with a population density of less than 12.5 inhabitants per square kilometremay also qualify for the derogation in question."

Finnmark has a total population of 74.879 persons and a population density of 1.6 inhabitants per square kilometre. Troms has a total population of 150.288 persons and a population density of 6.0 inhabitants per square kilometre, while Nordland has a total population of 239.280 persons and a population density of 6.6 inhabitants per square kilometre. The total number of inhabitants in these three counties per 1.1.1998 is 464.447 persons and the population density for the whole area is 4.1 persons per square kilometre.

The Authority therefore finds that this part of the proposal meets the criteria of Chapter 25.3.(17) of the Guidelines.

- Geographical units – Southern Norway

Chapter 25.3.(16) of the Guidelines states that the list of regions must conform to NUTS level III or, in justified circumstances, to a different homogeneous geographical unit.

In Southern Norway, 6 counties<sup>7</sup> (NUTS III) consisting of 131 municipalities with a total population of 867.864 persons would qualify on the basis of the low population density criterion (Chapter 25.3.(17) of the Guidelines). Together with Finnmark, Nordland and Troms, this would amount to 1.332.311 persons, or 30.16 % of the total population. However, the Norwegian authorities have instead notified parts of Southern-Norway at NUTS level V (municipalities). The Authority must therefore assess whether it is justified to notify on the basis of NUTS level V, and not NUTS level III.

The main reason stated by the Norwegian authorities for applying NUTS level V are to exclude "strong" municipalities in counties satisfying the low population density criterion and to include "weak" municipalities in counties that does not meet this criterion. To substantiate this, the Norwegian authorities have calculated that, in low population density counties, the labour force in municipalities which are outside the notified area, amounts to 245.307 persons and have an average tax income of NOK 139.149 per person. In counties which do not have a low population density, the labour force and tax income per person for the municipalities which are inside the notified area, amounts to 144.947 persons and NOK 131.180, respectively.

The Authority finds that the Norwegian authorities have substantiated that by excluding municipalities from low population density counties, and including municipalities from counties which do not have a low population, priority has been given to the less-favoured regions (ref. Chapter 25.1.(2) of the Guidelines). Secondly, the total population coverage is reduced from 30.16% to 25.79% by applying NUTS level V instead of NUTS level III. Thirdly, if the Norwegian authorities had notified the counties in Southern Norway qualified on the basis of the low population density

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<sup>7</sup> Hedmark, Oppland, Telemark, Aust-Agder, Sogn og Fjordane and Nord-Trøndelag.

criterion (ref. Chapter 25.3(17) of the Guidelines), the notified area would not have formed a contiguous area (ref. Chapter 25.3.(16) of the Guidelines).

The Authority therefore finds that it is justified to notify areas in Southern Norway at NUTS level V.

- The indicators

Chapter 25.3.(15) of the Guidelines states that *"the indicators must satisfy the following conditions:*

- *their number, including both simple indicators and combinations of indicators, must be limited to five;*
- *they must be objective and relevant to the examination of the socio-economic circumstances of the regions;*
- *they must either be based on statistical series relating to the indicators used over a period including at least the three years prior to the moment of notification, or be derived from the last survey carried out, if the relevant statistics are not available on an annual basis;*
- *they must be drawn up by reliable statistical sources."*

The Norwegian authorities have chosen 5 indicators (see point I 3.1 above). The Authority has taken note of the indicators chosen by the Norwegian authorities and finds that they are in accordance with Chapter 25.3.(15) of the Guidelines.

- The list of regions and indicators

Chapter 25.3.(16) of the Guidelines states i.a. that *"the list of regions must be arranged on the basis of the indicators set out at Chapter 25.3, paragraph (15). The regions proposed must show significant disparities (half of the standard deviation) compared with the average of the potential 61(3)(c) regions of the EFTA State concerned, in respect of one or other indicator used in the method."*

With the indicators mentioned in point I 3.1 above, the Norwegian authorities have calculated the standard deviation on the basis of all the 435 potential "61(3)(c) municipalities". All the 177 municipalities show a disparity larger than half the standard deviation compared to the average in respect of one or more of the five chosen indicators. The Authority therefore finds that the regions in Southern Norway notified by the Norwegian authorities meet the criteria in Chapter 25.3.(16) of the Guidelines.

## **2.2. Aid ceilings**

The Norwegian authorities have proposed general maximum aid ceilings of 25% NGE (plus 5% gross for SMEs), 20% NGE (plus 5% gross for SMEs) and 10% NGE (plus 10% gross for SMEs) for target zone A, B and C respectively. In addition they have proposed a maximum aid ceiling in zone A for the year 2000 of 30% NGE to large companies plus 10% gross to SMEs, and up to 30% NGE plus 5% gross to SMEs for the year 2001. For zone C, with the exemption of counties Hordaland, Rogaland and Vest-

Agder, the Norwegian authorities have proposed that it shall be possible to give 5% NGE extra in cases where one can expect an extraordinary regional impact.

Chapter 25.4.(16) of the State Aid Guidelines states i.a. that *"in the Article 61(3)(c) regions, the ceiling on regional aid must not exceed 20% NGE in general, except in the low population density regions where it may be as high as 30% NGE."* Chapter 25.4.(20) furthermore states that these ceilings may be raised by the supplements for SMEs by 10 percentage points gross in the case of regions qualifying for exemptions under Article 61(3)(c).

However, Chapter 10.3.2 of the Guidelines<sup>8</sup> states i.a. that *"in assisted areas, the Authority may approve aid to SMEs which exceeds the level of regional investment aid it has authorised for large enterprises in the area by 10 percentage points gross in areas covered by article 61(3)(c), provided the total does not exceed 30% net"*. This implies that the general applicable maximum aid ceiling, also for SMEs, in target zone A, is 30% NGE.

Chapter 25.5.(6) of the Guidelines states that *"for regions losing their Article 61(3)(a) status as a result of the review of the regional aid map, and acquiring Article 61(3)(c) status, the EFTA Surveillance Authority could accept, during a transitional period, a progressive reduction of the aid intensities for which such regions had been eligible under Article 61(3)(a), at a linear or faster rate, until the intensity ceiling corresponding to the application of Chapter 25.4, paragraphs (15)-(20) is reached. The transitional period should not exceed two years in the case of operating aid and four years in the case of aid for initial investment and job creation."*

Zone A is a low population density region (1.6 inhabitants per square kilometre) which lost its "61(3)(a) status" in 1998<sup>9</sup>. The current aid intensity in zone A is 30% NGE plus 15% gross for SMEs (see table 1, part I, of this decision). The proposed general applicable aid intensity of 25% NGE plus 5% gross for SMEs gives a maximum aid ceiling for SMEs in target zone A of 28.6% net<sup>10</sup>, which is below the maximum ceiling of 30% net and therefore in accordance with Chapter 25.4.(16) and Chapter 10.3.2 of the Guidelines. The proposed aid ceilings for 2000 and 2001 is also in accordance with Chapter 25.5.(6) of the Guidelines.

Zone B is low population density region (3.7 inhabitants per square kilometre). Zone B has at present an aid intensity of 25% NGE plus an SME supplement of 5% gross (see table 1, part I, of this decision). The proposed aid intensity of 20% NGE plus 5% gross for SMEs gives a maximum aid ceiling for SMEs in target zone B of 23.6% net, which is 5 percentage points below the maximum ceiling for target zone A and also in accordance with Chapter 25.4.(16) and Chapter 10.3.2 of the Guidelines.

Chapter 25.4.(18) of the Guidelines states i.a. that *"in the regions eligible under Article 61(3)(c) which have both a higher per capita GDP/PPS and a lower*

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<sup>8</sup> Aid to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

<sup>9</sup> See footnote 5.

<sup>10</sup> The tax rate for enterprises in Norway is 28%.



*unemployment rate than the respective EEA average<sup>11</sup>, the intensity of regional aid must not exceed 10% NGE except in the low population density regions, where it may be as high as 20% NGE.”*

Zone C is also a low population density region (6.5 inhabitants per square kilometre). Zone C has at present an aid intensity of 15% NGE plus an SME supplement of 10% gross (see table 1, part I, of this decision). The proposed general applicable aid intensity of 10% NGE plus 10% gross for SMEs gives a maximum aid ceiling for SMEs in target zone B of 17.2% net, which is 6.4 percentage points below the maximum ceiling for target zone B and also in accordance with Chapter 25.4.(16) and Chapter 10.3.2 of the Guidelines. For the areas in target zone C which do not have both a higher per capita GDP/PPS and a lower unemployment rate than the respective EEA average, the Norwegian authorities have proposed that in cases where one can expect an extraordinary regional impact the general aid ceiling can be raised by 5% NGE. This gives a maximum ceiling for SMEs of 22.2% net, which is below the maximum ceiling in zone B, and, in accordance with Chapter 25.4.(18) of the Guidelines.

The Authority therefore concludes that the maximum aid intensities for regional investment aid, as proposed by the Norwegian authorities, is in accordance with the Guidelines and can be accepted under the exemption clause in Article 61(3)(c) of the EEA Agreement.

An overview of the target zones and the applicable maximum aid intensities is given in Annex 1 to this decision.

### **3. Scope of the decision and cumulation of aid**

The map of assisted areas in Norway is not related to aid schemes covered by the concept of transport aid. This decision concerns therefore only regional aid for general investment and not aids measures falling under the notions of direct or indirect transport aid.

The map of assisted areas shall not be redrawn, save by way of exception, until a period of 7 years has lapsed as of 1.1.2000. During that period, and subject to prior notification to and approval by the EFTA Surveillance Authority, the possibility of adjusting the map and the maximum aid intensities to reflect a change in circumstances is, however, not ruled out.

The decision does not restrict the powers of the Authority to review the map, in accordance with Article 1(1) of Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement if necessary before the end of the period referred to above.

The Norwegian authorities are reminded that when applying regional aid schemes to shipbuilding, the aid ceilings of 12.5% for the “Article 61(3)(c)” regions shall not be exceeded, according to Article 7 of the Shipbuilding Regulation<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> GDP and unemployment must be measured at NUTS level III.

The proposed aid ceilings for each target zone is cumulative, i.e. they refer to the upper limit for regional investment aid from all public sources awarded to a particular investment project.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The notified map of assisted areas reflects the requirements set out in the State Aid Guidelines (Chapter 25) for aid under Article 61(3)(c) of the EEA Agreement and thereby qualifies for exemption under Article 61(3)(c) of the EEA Agreement.

#### **HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:**

1. The EFTA Surveillance Authority has decided not to raise objections to the proposed system for regional aid in Norway, i.e. the proposal for a map of assisted areas and maximum aid intensities in Norway, as notified to the Authority by letter dated 11 May 1999 (Doc. No: 99-3502 A) and a letter dated 10 December 1999 (Doc. No: 99-9607 A).
2. Without prejudice to Article 1(1) of Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement, the map of areas eligible for regional investment aid shall be applicable from 1 January 2000 until 31 December 2006.

Done at Brussels, 16 December 1999

For the EFTA Surveillance Authority

Knut Almestad  
President

Hannes Hafstein  
College Member

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<sup>12</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1540/98 of 29 June 1998 establishing new rules on aid to shipbuilding. In the Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 12/99 of 29 January 1999, the Shipbuilding Regulation was included in point 1b of Annex XV of the EEA Agreement with certain adaptations. Subsequently, the Shipbuilding Regulation was implemented in Norwegian law by Royal Decree No 7/99 of 19 March 1999.

## Annex 1

### MUNICIPALITIES COVERED BY TARGET ZONES A, B AND C

#### Target zone A<sup>1</sup>

General aid ceiling: 25 % NGE - SME supplement: 5 % (gross)

County	Municipalities eligible for regional investment aid
Finnmark	Whole county
Troms	Kåfjord, Skjervøy, Nordreisa, Kvænangen

<sup>1</sup> It may in 2000 be given up to 30% NGE to large companies, + 10 gross to SMEs. In 2001 it may be given up to 30% NGE, +5% gross to SMEs.

#### Target zone B

General aid ceiling: 20 % NGE - SME supplement: 5 % (gross)

County	Municipalities eligible for regional investment aid
Hedmark	Trysil, Åmot, S Elvdal, Rendalen, Engerdal, Tolga, Tynset, Alvdal, Folldal, Os
Oppland	Dovre, Lesja, Skjåk, Lom, Vågå, Sel, N Fron, S Fron
Telemark	Seljord, Kviteseid, Nissedal, Fyresdal, Tokke, Tinn, Vinje
Aust-Agder	Åmli
Rogaland	Utsira
Møre og Romsdal	Surnadal, Rindal, Aure, Halså, Tustna, Smøla
Sør-Trøndelag	Oppdal, Rennebu, Meldal, Røros, Holtålen, Tydal, Hemne, Snillfjord, Hitra, Frøya, Åfjord, Roan, Osen, Agdenes, Bjugn
Nord-Trøndelag	Snåsa, Namsos, Namdalseid, Lierne, Røyrvik, Namsskogan, Grong, Høylandet, Overhalla, Fosnes, Flatanger, Vikna, Nærøy, Leka, Meråker, Verran, Mosvik
Nordland	Whole county except Bodø
Troms	Whole county except Tromsø, Kåfjord, Skjervøy, Nordreisa and Kvænangen

#### Target zone C<sup>1</sup>

General aid ceiling: 10 % NGE - SME supplement: 10 % (gross)

County	Municipalities eligible for regional investment aid
Østfold	Aremark, Marker, Rømskog
Hedmark	Grue, Åsnes, Våler, Eidskog, Kongsvinger
Oppland	S Land, N Land, S Aurdal, Etnedal, N Aurdal, V Slidre, Ø Slidre, Vang, , Ringebu, Gausdal
Buskerud	Sigdal, Flå, Nes, Gol, Hemsedal, Ål, Hol, Rollag, Nore og Uvdal
Telemark	Bø, Sauherad, Notodden, Nome, Hjartdal, Drangedal
Aust-Agder	Gjerstad, Vegårshei, Bygland, Valle, Bykle
Vest-Agder	Åseral, Audnedal, Hægebostad, Sirdal, Kvinesdal
Rogaland	Hjelmeland, Suldal, Sauda, Kvitsøy, Sokndal, Lund, Vindafjord, Finnøy
Hordaland	Fedje, Masfjorden, Voss, Jondal, Odda, Ullensvang, Eidfjord, Ulvik, Granvin, Kvam, Modalen, Etne, Kvinnherad, Ølen
Sogn og Fjordane	Whole county except Førde, Flora and Naustdal
Møre og Romsdal	Gjemnes, Tingvoll, Sunndal, Norddal, Stranda, Stordal, Rauma, Nesset, Kristiansund, Averøy, Frei, Midsund, Sandøy, Eide, Vanylven, Sande
Sør-Trøndelag	Ørland, Rissa, Midtre Gauldal, Selbu
Nord-Trøndelag	Leksvik, Steinkjer, Verdal, Inderøy
Nordland	Bodø
Troms	Tromsø

<sup>1</sup> Possible to give 5% extra NGE in cases where one can expect an extraordinary regional impact, with exemption of municipalities in the three counties Hordaland, Rogaland and Vest-Agder.