

STATEMENT

Nord Stream Appreciates the Openness and Dialogue in the Swedish Referral Process Regarding the Pipelines

Zug, 29 November 2008. The referral replies to Nord Stream's updated application to construct two natural gas pipelines through the Baltic Sea have now been received by the Swedish Government. Nord Stream appreciates the referral authorities' expedient processing of the now completed administrative round. This procedure is a prevalent and important part of the Swedish authorisation process.

It represents a logical stage of the authorisation process, and it has become customary that all applications pursuant to Swedish national legislation (the Environmental Code) undergo an administrative round. That viewpoints be submitted by the referral authorities is the very intention of this procedure and of the following steps in the permitting process

Nord Stream has reviewed the referral replies from public authorities, and in three of them, including that of the Swedish Coast Guard, it is stated that the application documentation is complete, i.e. that no further information is required. Replies from other authorities contain the desire to see additions of varying magnitude. Nord Stream notes that the referral authorities have appreciated the work that the company has put into the process. Nord Stream will carefully consider each question and will then provide further information. It also looks forward with confidence to a continued dialogue in the spring with the general public, both in Sweden and in other countries around the Baltic Sea.

In addition to the important referral process, Nord Stream is also holding a dialogue with professional fishermen and other parties concerned. This dialogue, along with the referral process, represents important stages of the timetable established by Nord Stream for the project.

The natural gas pipeline is an important European project, and Nord Stream has carried out comprehensive environmental studies and planning, worth 100 million Euros, to find any opportunity to reduce and mitigate environmental impacts. The project contributes to Europe being able to achieve the stringent climate objectives. The viewpoints that the project received from the Government in the spring of 2008, as well as from the referral authorities during the administrative round, form a natural stage of an authorisation process – with the ultimate objective of



the general public and the authorisation body having the most complete and extensive material on which to base their comments and respective decisions.

Nord Stream will now continue its dialogue with public authorities and related parties.

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Notes to editors:

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union via the Baltic Sea. Gas imports by the European Union, 314 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 2005, are projected to grow by almost 200 bcm to 509 bcm per year in 2025 (Source: European Commission/DG-TREN, 2007). Connecting the world's biggest gas reserves with the European gas pipeline network, Nord Stream will meet about 25 per cent of that additional requirement. The project will be an important contribution to long-term security of supply and a milestone of the energy partnership between the European Union and Russia.

Nord Stream AG plans to have the first of two parallel pipelines operational in 2011. Each line is approximately 1,220 kilometres long, providing a transport capacity of some 27.5 bcm per annum. Full capacity of about 55 bcm a year will be reached in the second phase, when operation of the second line starts.

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new offshore gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea. Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. BASF/Wintershall and E.ON Ruhrgas hold 20 per cent each, and N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 per cent stake.