

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream and German Environment Groups Reach Agreement

The accord covers enhanced protection for herring, improved monitoring and new approach on dumping at sea

Zug, 23 April 2010. After intensive negotiations, two German environmental groups – BUND Mecklenburg Western-Pomerania and WWF Germany – have reached an agreement with Nord Stream AG on further far-reaching environmental steps to protect the Baltic Sea. Plans for the long-term storage of excavation material from construction works at the landfall, and for environmental monitoring during construction have been modified. Furthermore, an additional “close season” of ten days for herring has been agreed for next year.

As a supplement to previously approved plans, Nord Stream’s enhanced monitoring concept foresees the development of additional measures to monitor the environmental impact of the pipeline’s construction, primarily with regard to water turbidity. More tests for observing how ecosystems react when construction has been completed have also been agreed upon.

According to the agreement reached between Nord Stream and the environment groups, Nord Stream’s previous dumping-at-sea concept has changed. As a result of this agreement, marl arising through construction activities will now be brought to land, and no longer dumped at sea.

To preserve herring stocks that are already depleted by the severe winters, an additional “close season” for herring has been agreed for next year with the local fishermen. During this “close season”, fishermen will desist in deploying herring gill nets for a total of ten days. Nord Stream will compensate them for the resulting financial costs.

Dirk von Ameln, Nord Stream Permitting Director, said: “Negotiations over the past few weeks have been very constructive. We have a common interest in improving the protection of the Baltic Sea’s ecosystem. This goal has been achieved,” he said.

Nord Stream and the environmental groups are currently discussing additional compensation measures. “We are confident that we will be able to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion within the next two months,” von Ameln added.

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Notes to editors

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union through the Baltic Sea. The European Union's annual natural gas imports in the year 2007 were approximately 312 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to 516 bcm by the year 2030. This means that by 2030, the EU's annual import needs will have increased by about 200 bcm (Source: IEA, World Energy Outlook, 2009). Nord Stream will meet about 25 percent of this additional gas import requirement by connecting the European gas pipeline network to some of the world's largest gas reserves. 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 year. Full capacity of about 55 bcm per year will be reached when the second line goes on stream. This is enough gas to supply more than 26 million European households.

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new offshore gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea. Russian OAO Gazprom holds a 51 percent stake in the joint venture. The German companies BASF SE/Wintershall Holding GmbH and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 20 percent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 percent stake.