

PRESS RELEASE

Positive Report on Nord Stream's Environmental Impact

Visby, July 6, 2011. The latest results from Nord Stream's environmental monitoring programme in the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone, EEZ show that the company has complied with and even exceeded the conditions in the permit granted by the Swedish government. Calculations and models in Nord Stream's environmental study have proven accurate, and it is now estimated that the environmental impact so far has been smaller than anticipated.

Lars O Grönstedt, Senior Adviser to Nord Stream:

"We are happy to be able to demonstrate that our environmental study, the basis for Nord Stream's permit application, has been correct and that construction works have had no negative impact on the environment of the Baltic Sea."

At a seminar in Visby today Nord Stream presented three new reports on the company's environmental monitoring activities. The reports contain results from the measurement of seabed currents and inflow of saltwater to the Baltic Sea; potential turbidity caused by construction works in the vicinity of the Natura 2000 areas at Hoburgs Bank and Norra Midsjöbanken, as well as the prevalence of contaminants in common mussels.

Measurements of seabed currents and saltwater inflow, so called hydrographical monitoring have taken place in the Bornholm Basin during 2010 – 2011. The pipeline has an average height of 0.7 metres above the seabed in the Swedish EEZ. The purpose has been to verify the assessment that the Nord Stream Pipeline will not cause any blocking of the inflow of saltwater. Two monitoring stations have performed measurements of temperature, salinity and direction and speed of the water currents. Additional measurements have also been carried out from vessels. The surveys have been executed by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, SMHI, on behalf of Nord Stream. The results confirm the previous analysis: Nord Stream's pipeline will have no negative impact either on the inflow of saltwater or on the water quality of the Baltic Sea.

Monitoring of potential turbidity has been performed in Sweden in areas bordering to the Natura 2000 areas Hoburgs Bank and Norra Midsjöbanken. The purpose has been to measure turbidity and sediment concentrations during Nord Stream's trenching activities along certain parts of the pipeline. Four permanent monitoring stations, with direct data

transmission were placed at the borders of the Natura 2000 areas and measurements of sediment were also made from vessels close to the trenching vessel. The survey was carried out by Danish DHI and Swedish SMHI on behalf of Nord Stream. Trenching in the Swedish EEZ took place during February – March 2011. The measurements show lower levels than estimated in the environmental study. The threshold value, 15 mg/l, established by the Swedish government in the permit has never been even close to being exceeded. In fact, average turbidity was below 2 mg/l during Nord Stream's trenching activities.

Eco-toxicological effects on mussels have also been monitored in the Natura 2000 areas south-east of Gotland during 2010 – 2011. The purpose has been to verify that mussels and other living organisms were not affected by potential spreading of sediments and contaminants which could be released due to Nord Stream's trenching activities. By placing cages with mussels on six different locations (three impact stations and three reference stations) at both offshore banks, samples were collected before, during and after the trenching activities. The collected mussels have been analysed in order to measure the concentration of metals and tin compounds. The survey was made by Marin Monitoring AB on behalf of Nord Stream. The weighted results from monitoring of eco-toxicological effects on mussels show no measurable impact on the environment of the two Natura 2000 areas Hoburgs Bank and Norra Midsjöbanken.

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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 2008 were approximately 320 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to over 500 bcm by the year 2030. By then, the EU will need additional gas imports of 188 bcm per year (Source: IEA, 2011). Nord Stream will meet almost one third 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 15.5 percent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and the French energy company GDF SUEZ S.A. each hold a 9 percent stake.

Nord Stream is included in the Trans-European Energy Network Guidelines (TEN-E) of the European Union. In 2006, the project was designated a “project of European interest” by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. Nord Stream is, therefore, recognised as a key project for meeting Europe’s energy infrastructure needs.

Construction of the Nord Stream Pipeline started in April 2010, after completion of environmental studies and planning and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) along the entire pipeline route. Three pipelay barges have been commissioned to work on the project: Saipem’s Castoro Sei is carrying out the majority of the construction in the Baltic Sea. The Castoro Dieci has completed its operations in German waters, where it constructed both pipelines in the German landfall section; Allseas’ Solitaire handles construction in the Gulf of Finland as a subcontractor of Saipem. The first pipeline is scheduled to be operational in 2011, the second one in 2012.