

PRESS RELEASE

Environmental Impacts of Constructing the Nord Stream Pipelines Minor and Local

- **Cumulative results of the environmental monitoring from 2009-2012 confirm minor impacts**
- **Actual impacts are generally in line with the assessments made in the planning phase**

Helsinki/Zug, September 17, 2013. The cumulative results of Nord Stream AG's environmental monitoring in Finnish waters during 2009-2012 confirm that the construction of the pipelines caused only minor and local impacts on the environment.

Nord Stream AG has been conducting environmental monitoring in Finnish waters since 2009. The monitoring results from 2009-2012 confirm that the pipeline construction works, such as munitions clearance, rock placement and pipe-laying had minor or negligible, local and short-term impacts on water quality.

Impact on water quality was one of the major concerns in the planning phase of the Project. Munitions clearance and rock placement were predicted to affect it most. The monitoring results showed that the total amount of sediment released due to munitions clearance was approximately 10 per cent of the assessed volume and only minor increase in turbidity (less than 10 NTU¹) was detected in the seawater after the clearances.

The greatest impact on water quality was caused by rock placement. The highest turbidity value (54 NTU) was observed during the installation of the largest rock berm. The impact area was less than 1 kilometre from the construction site and the maximum total duration of increased turbidity during the installation of the largest rock berm was 2.5 days. Overall, the actual impacts on water quality were on the same level or less than had been assessed during the environmental impact assessment and permitting processes.

Spreading of harmful substances was minimal, and bioconcentration of any released contaminants was found to be negligible. After the clearances of munitions no increase in the contaminant concentrations in the seawater was detected. Neither did munitions clearance or rock

¹ NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit. Measurement unit describing the water turbidity. 10 NTU is generally considered as a threshold value for visible turbidity.

placement cause any significant increase in the concentrations of contaminants in the sediment. The release of nutrients from the seabed was found to have no effect on the eutrophication status of the Gulf of Finland.

The impacts of construction activities were so minor and local that they have not had any impact on the closest Natura 2000 areas located approximately three kilometres from the pipeline route. They did not have any permanent negative impact on the biodiversity of the open sea habitats in the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), either.

Furthermore, construction works performed in Finnish waters during 2009-2012 did not cause measurable impacts in the Estonian EEZ. The metal and dioxin concentrations in the sediment were generally low. The tributyltin (TBT) concentrations showed large temporal and spatial variation but were generally at a relatively high level. The TBT originates primarily from the antifouling paints formerly used on the hulls of the vessels. There are several shipping lanes in the area.

Impacts of pipeline construction on commercial fishing or ship traffic were minor. The construction activities were carried out in co-operation with the maritime authorities, and third party shipping was guided safely around the construction vessels. There were only two minor incidents in the construction phase, where a third party vessel entered the safety zone of a construction vessel.

During construction, over 20 expert companies and institutes have been involved in the implementation of the national monitoring programmes. Internationally recognized laboratories have analysed the gathered samples. Environmental monitoring during construction and operation covers altogether 16 subjects and 1,000 locations along the whole pipeline route. The results are compiled into monitoring reports that are submitted on a regular basis to the national authorities who oversee that the Project is implemented in compliance with national environmental regulations. Nord Stream AG will invest over 40 million euros in its social and environmental monitoring up to 2016. The monitoring ensures that the environment is not adversely affected.

The Environmental Monitoring 2012 Annual Report Finland can be accessed [here](#).

For images related to the environmental monitoring, please visit our [library](#).

For further information, please contact:

Tiina Salonen, Environmental Manager Finland, Nord Stream AG
Mobile: +41 79 874 31 52



Nord Stream

The new gas supply route for Europe

Minna Sundelin, Communications Project Manager Finland, Nord Stream AG, Mobile: +41 79 874 31 41, +358 40 582 2750

Email: press@nord-stream.com

Notes to editors

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the twin offshore gas pipelines through the Baltic Sea. Russian OAO Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. The German companies BASF SE/Wintershall Holding GmbH and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 15.5 per cent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and the French energy company GDF SUEZ S.A. each hold a 9 per cent stake. Nord Stream's head office and operations centre are both in Zug, Switzerland.

Nord Stream's natural gas pipelines through the Baltic Sea are now both operational and will have the capacity to transport 55 billion cubic metres (bcm) of Russian gas a year to the EU, for at least 50 years. Both lines run in parallel for 1,224 kilometres from Portovaya Bay, near Vyborg on the Russian Baltic Sea coast to Lubmin, Germany. Each pipeline comprises some 100,000 24-tonne concrete-weight-coated steel pipes laid on the seabed along the precise route agreed with the authorities of the five countries through whose waters the pipelines now pass. Construction of the first Nord Stream Pipeline started in April 2010, and both lines were completed and on-stream only 30 months later, on schedule and on budget.

Natural gas plays an increasingly important role in Europe's energy mix at a time when gas production in the EU is declining. Gas import requirements are projected to increase to 524 bcm by 2035. By then the EU will need additional gas imports of 222 bcm per year. (Source: IEA 2012.) Nord Stream will meet about a quarter of this additional gas import requirement by connecting the European gas pipeline network to some of the world's largest gas reserves.

Nord Stream is committed to safety and the environment: the consortium invested 100 million euros in the most comprehensive research of the Baltic Sea ever in planning the pipeline. The consortium consulted widely to ensure that the design, routing, construction and operation of the pipeline will be safe and environmentally sound. Through 2016, Nord Stream is investing a further 40 million euros in comprehensive environmental monitoring along its route through the Baltic Sea to guarantee that the environment is not adversely affected.

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.

Industriestrasse 18
6304 Zug, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 41 766 91 91
Fax: +41 41 766 91 92
www.nord-stream.com

Moscow Branch
ul. Znamenka 7, bld 3
119019 Moscow, Russia
Tel. +7 495 229 65 85
Fax. +7 495 229 65 80