

ESTONIAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

Mrs Annika Uudelepp
Estonian Ministry of the Environment
Narva mnt 7a
15172 Tallinn

Copy to: Marika Priske
Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

Opinion about the EIA of Russian- Germany gas pipeline

Estonia Maritime Administration examined the project information document (PID) of Russian-German gas pipeline project.

In PID it has been mentioned several times that the affected corridor width on the sea bottom caused by the pipeline installation operation is approximately 1500 m (p9 1600 m), where ship traffic, including fishery is not allowed. The gas pipeline installed in the Gulf of Finland is in some places only up to 800 m from the borders of EEZ of Estonia (see the attached graph). Therefore Estonia's interests are highly affected and Estonia should also be a country, whose permit procedure is necessary for construction of the gas pipeline.

The gas pipeline will be installed in to the area in the Gulf of Finland, where Estonia and Finland have limited the width of their territorial sea by leaving free corridor for shipping with purpose to ease shipping traffic. Although separation scheme of shipping traffic has been created for insuring security of shipping traffic then shipping accidents are not excluded in this particular area and in the case of ship drowning the injuring of gas pipeline is still possible. The gas pipeline should be installed beyond the separation scheme of shipping traffic.

Sincerely yours,

Andrus Maide,
Director General

Appendix : graph (1 page)

Ene Lillipuu 6205 531
ene.lillipuu@vta.ee