

SWEDISH GAS ASSOCIATION

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SEPA

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Statement of opinion on supplementary documentation for Environmental Impact Assessment for Nord Stream Gas Pipeline

Summary

The Swedish Gas Association has been offered the opportunity to give its views on what should be described in the Environmental Impact Assessments of the parties responsible regarding the impact on the environment within Swedish territory caused by the project concerned. Our view is that environmental issues are not of a country-specific nature and that therefore the views outlined below apply to all countries, i.e. Russia, Finland, Denmark and Germany.

- The assessed negative environmental consequences which a laying of the gas pipeline as contained in the application would bring to flora and fauna in the sea should be weighed against the positive environmental consequences which can be expected to be achieved in those environments where the natural gas will be used and will replace alternative fossil fuels.
- The environmental consequences of a gas pipeline laid in the sea should be compared with an alternative siting on land.
- The transfer of energy gas in a pipeline is one of the most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly ways of transferring large quantities of energy. This should be illustrated.
- According to the application, the energy gas pipeline is intended for the transport of natural gas. However, there is nothing to exclude the possibility that other energy gases may come to be transported by it in the future, for example methane manufactured from biocrops and biofuels. We consider that the future usefulness of a newly-established gas pipeline for the transfer of renewable energy should be evaluated/illustrated in the environmental testing.
- One important purpose of the pipeline is to increase the supply security of energy gas on the northern European market. A comparative environmental analysis of alternative possible routes of supply providing the same benefit should be presented.

The Swedish Gas Association looks positively forward to development in energy gases and supports development which would lead to increased energy efficiency and an improved environment.

Stockholm 7 January 2008

(signed)

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