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Official information

Our reference, telephone
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SEPA

106 48 Stockholm

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

The Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) has received the above case by a referral dated 15 November 2007, for comment.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is the authority responsible in Sweden for submitting and receiving information and otherwise fulfilling the obligations in respect of environmental impact assessments in transboundary contexts. In this capacity, the authority has received information regarding the gas pipeline project "Nord Stream Gas Pipeline" from Russia, Finland, Denmark and Germany. Swedish authorities and organisations and the Swedish public are hereby offered the opportunity to give their opinions to the said countries. Such opinions should in the first place concern what should be described in the Environmental Impact Assessment regarding the impact on the environment within the Swedish area arising from the locating of the pipeline in, respectively, the Russian, Finnish, Danish or German economic zones or territorial waters. General opinions as to what should be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment for the entire route may also be stated. The SEPA co-ordinates all replies from Sweden.

In the light of the above, the SGU wishes to present the opinions laid out as follows.

General

The construction work planned entails an increase in shipping traffic in the area. Some units, e.g. pipe-laying vessels, can be expected to be difficult to manoeuvre. A vessel collision resulting in an oil discharge can be expected to create environmental problems which may affect the Swedish marine environment. An Environmental Impact Assessment should present measures for minimising the risk of an accident, and for managing problems should they occur.

The pipe-laying vessel may possibly be positioned and moved with the help of an anchor to be dropped with the help of special vessels (anchor handling tugs). If such an anchor were by accident to be dropped on a wreck containing bunker fuel or an environmentally hazardous cargo, this could cause a leak of oil or other environmentally hazardous substance. This could affect the environment within the Swedish marine area. An Environmental Impact

Organisation no. 202100-2528



Assessment should present measures to minimise the risk of such an occurrence and also to manage such problems if they occur.

A breach of the gas pipeline(s) during operation can be expected to cause a leak of methane gas, which could cause shipping traffic accidents which, in turn (oil spills etc.) could affect conditions within the Swedish area. An Environmental Impact Assessment should show measures for minimising the risk of such an event and also for managing such problems if they occur.

Sea floor

Dredging, filling and pipe-laying carried out in the wrong way within the Finnish or Danish economic zones in close proximity to the Swedish economic zone could cause slippages which might impact on the Swedish area. Slippages on very flat bottoms have been observed in connection with SGU surveys in the Swedish economic zone, in the area to the north of Bornholm. An Environmental Impact Assessment should present measures for minimising the risk of such an occurrence.

Dredging, filling and pipe-laying on bottoms consisting of new mud and mud clays would swirl up sediment into the sea water. Such sediment would contain and bind often high contents of environmentally hazardous substances, which, in this way, could be reintroduced into the biological cycle and which, in turn, could be spread into Swedish waters. An Environmental Impact Assessment should present estimated quantities of various substances which may be spread, and the extent of anticipated areas of spread, possibly in comparison with spread through natural relocation processes and the disturbance which comes about as a result of the bottom trawling now practised. Furthermore, measures for minimising such spread should be presented.

Decisions on this case have been reached by the undersigned institution solicitor.

The following have participated in case processing: 1st state geologist Anders Elhammer and solicitor Caroline Strömbäck (reporting).



Hans-Göran Jansson

Caroline Strömbäck

