

Environmental Committee

13 December 2007

Article 5

Ministry of the Environment  
P.O. Box 35  
GOVERNMENT

## EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES

6687 / 720 / 2006

**NORD STREAM, RUSSIA-GERMANY OFFSHORE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE  
IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF FINLAND, MID-TERM REPORT,  
ISSUING OF A STATEMENT**

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The Ministry of the Environment reserved the City of Espoo the opportunity to issue a statement on the mid-term report of the environmental impact assessment programme "Russia-Germany Offshore Natural Gas Pipeline in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Finland" (13 November 2007, Rec. No YM5/5521/2006).

The construction of an offshore natural gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea is being planned. Nord Stream AG, a company owned by gas companies (the Russian Gazprom JSC and the German E.ON AG and BASF AG), is responsible for the project. The purpose is to build an offshore pipeline from Babayevo through the Port of Vyborg to Greifswald. The planned pipeline spans approximately 1,200 kilometres and travels 369 kilometres in the Finnish EEZ.

Nord Stream AG initiated the EIA procedure of the pipeline project in Finland on 14 November 2006. Based on the feedback received, Nord Stream AG has specified the route alternatives that are being investigated in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure. The company has prepared a mid-term report on these changes, which has been submitted for statements to all States of the Baltic Sea. The Finnish authorities and people also have the opportunity to give their opinion on the mid-term report insofar as the environmental impacts can be considered to extend to Finland. Opinions and statements on the mid-term report should be submitted in writing to the Registry of the Ministry of the Environment by 21 December 2007.

The Ministry of the Environment will submit the opinions and statements issued to Nord Stream and to Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Russia for consideration in the EIA procedure. The results of the assessment will be compiled into an

environmental impact assessment report, which will subsequently be submitted for a public hearing, and separate notice will be given of its status. Nord Stream's estimate for the completion of the assessment report is April 2008.

The mid-term report will be open for public display in Finland from 12 November 2007 to 21 December 2007 at the Uusimaa, Southwest Finland and Southeast Finland Regional Environment Centres and at the Environment Centre of the City of Kotka, as well as on the website of the Ministry of the Environment at [www.ymparisto.fi/kansainvalinenYVA](http://www.ymparisto.fi/kansainvalinenYVA) (Venäjän ja Saksan välinen merenalainen maakaasuputki->Väliraportti).

#### Plans

The EIA programme of the original route plan was open for public display in all of the States of the Baltic Sea between November 2006 and February 2007. More than a hundred comments were issued on the document, on the basis of which the construction company carried out additional studies.

The company has now changed the pipeline alignment in Denmark around Bornholm to the north and west of the island because of a nearby dumping and risk area for chemical munitions. In Sweden, the route travelling south of Gotland has been specified by taking into consideration the nearby Natura 2000 area, dumping and risk areas for chemical munitions, the mine risk and shipping lanes in the alignment.

In planning the alignment through Germany, the Natura 2000 areas and the planned and approved wind farms have been taken into consideration. Another landfall location for the pipeline has also been investigated in Germany.

In terms of the environment, the Finnish authorities have found it important that Nord Stream also investigate the pipeline alignment south of Gogland, so that the environmental impacts of this alternative can be included in the EIA of the project. Russia has not yet confirmed its position on launching an investigation where the Gogland alternative would be included in the EIA report.

The project consists of two parallel offshore pipelines from Russia to the Gulf of Finland and across the Baltic Sea to Germany. The pipeline route is within the territorial waters of Russia and Germany and the Exclusive Economic Zones of Finland, Sweden and Denmark. Located approximately 50 metres from each other, the planned pipelines will be 1,220 mm in diameter and approximately 1,200 km in length. The length of the route in the Finnish EEZ is 369 km. The section located within the EEZ is outside Finnish territorial waters. The planned pipeline will be installed by laying it on the seabed. In places, the pipeline will be covered or installed in a pipeline trench. The intention is to introduce the offshore Nord Stream natural gas pipeline system in 2010 with one pipeline. The second pipeline should be in use in 2012.

In parallel to the work on a more southern route, further development of the route in the Finnish EEZ has taken place. Hence, Nord Stream has been optimising the route in the Finnish EEZ in order to significantly reduce the amount of intervention works. This route is referred to as Route C9.

In the Conceptual Study Route C4.0, pipeline routing is based on the shortest route on-bottom pipe-lay. A large number of free spans will result in sea bed intervention work at numerous points along the route. The main intervention method is foreseen to be rock dumping by building up rock berms for pipeline support. Environmental impacts from rock dumping have been assessed to comprise an average influence area of approximately 1 km on each side of the pipelines. Significant adverse environmental impacts from rock dumping are not foreseen.

The Optimised Route C9.0 inside the Finnish EEZ has reduced the number of free spans. The optimised route requires intervention work in the form of rock berms. The influence area is the same (as in C4.0), but there is a smaller number of sites along the route (avoiding all designated Natura 2000 areas).

The planned pipeline is located approx. 20–30 km from the Finnish coast. It is closest to the mainland off the Cape of Porkkala. The direct impact area has, on a preliminary basis, been extended to cover the entire southern coast of Finland. Indirect impacts, such as the loss of benthos, will mainly be felt in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline system. Seabed intervention targets a corridor of 100–150 metres in width and 50–100 kilometres in length on the seabed in the Finnish EEZ. The seabed and the environment are mainly being investigated in the 2 km-wide section around the pipeline corridor. The impact area under investigation will be expanded to shallow waters and in the vicinity of settlement and Natura areas.

Proposal

Environmental Protection Manager:

The Environmental Committee issues the following statement on the matter.

The most significant impacts of the project will probably result from pipeline installation measures, such as dredging, explosions or backfilling. The impacts of the project during operation will probably be minor. The impacts of de-commissioning can be assessed after the methods have been specified in the course of detailed planning.

Tampering with seabed sediments during the construction phase will result in a release of harmful substances and nutrients and a muddying of water. In the Gulf of Finland, oxygen disappears from the water mass at approximately 50–60 metres. Deeper water and seabed areas are either oxygen-free or very oxygen-deficient. Hydrogen sulphide can be detected in places even at 50 metres in the Gulf of Finland. The oxygen-free or very oxygen-deficient water layer of the basin of the Baltic proper starts at approximately 60–70 metres and deeper water and seabed areas are completely dead. Hydrogen sulphide, which is toxic to all organisms, is found in places even at 60 metres (Finnish Institute of Marine Research, 2006). Phosphorus is released from seabed sediments in oxygen-free conditions, which further accelerates the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. The

phosphorus released from the seabed in connection with upwelling flows to the surface to be used by algae.

If the project is implemented, it should be carried out in such a manner that the resulting damage to the marine environment is as little as possible. However, the impacts during operation should also be taken into consideration in the survey. The impacts on fish stocks and fishing, in particular, should be studied.

Decision  
Environmental Committee:

The rapporteur's proposal was accepted unanimously.

The excerpt was certified as a true copy in Espoo on 20 December 2007 by

[signature]

Silja Liimatainen  
Office Secretary

#### OPENING OF THE MINUTES FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY

In accordance with the public notice issued on 29 December 2006, the minutes were open for public display on 27 December 2007.

For information

City Board, Technical Centre

Measures

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**PROHIBITION OF APPEAL, SECTION 5 (SECTIONS 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 14, 20, 21)  
OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDICIAL PROCEDURE ACT**

Prohibition of appeal

The above-mentioned decisions shall not be subject to appeal in accordance with section 5 of the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act.