

# FACTS

NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE ACROSS THE BALTIC SEA ISSUE 10/3-2009



National permit applications and environmental documents have been submitted.

Extensive surveys were carried out along the pipeline route.

## Nord Stream Permitting Processes Reach Public Participation Phase in the Baltic Sea Region

Espoo Report and National Environmental Impact Assessments have been submitted

The Nord Stream Project is entering a new, key stage: the transboundary environmental report (Espoo Report) and national Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are completed and the public participation phase has begun.

Up until the beginning of March 2009, Nord Stream submitted all national permit applications for the construction and operation of the pipeline, as well as all the environmental materials. The documents were submitted to authorities in the five countries through which waters the pipeline will pass: Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. On 4 March, Nord Stream also

submitted the Espoo Report, the detailed description of primarily, potential transboundary impacts along the whole route. It is published in the nine languages of the Baltic Sea countries, as well as in English. The report follows an intensive international consultation process and dialogue with authorities throughout the Baltic region which started in spring 2006.

“The international consultations for one of Europe’s largest infrastructure projects have provided valuable experience for Nord Stream as the developer and for national authorities”, says Dirk von Ameln, Nord Stream’s Permitting Director. “We had in-

“The start of public participation on our Espoo Report will mark an important milestone, and confirms that we are on schedule to start transporting gas from Russia to Europe in 2011.”



Dirk von Ameln,  
Nord Stream’s Permitting Director

tensive discussions about the methodologies, the structures and the contents of the documents. It has been a real challenge to create a report which meets the different expectations of different countries. But thanks to the constructive cooperation of all the countries we have come to a solution.”

### Public Participation and Consultation

The proper and timely implementation of the Nord Stream Project has required international consultation at all levels, including the public, special interest groups, national governments and EU bodies. Throughout this process Nord Stream has talked to ►

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Please note: In addition to its print newsletter, Nord Stream has also launched e-FACTS, its electronic newsletter. e-FACTS provides frequent and short updates on Nord Stream and related topics. e-FACTS is available online and via email.

Please visit [www.nord-stream.com](http://www.nord-stream.com) to subscribe.



Thorough planning and comprehensive impact assessments ensure minimal effects on the environment (Vik, Sweden).

### Legal Framework for the Pipeline Permitting Process



### Nine States Participate in Nord Stream's Espoo Process

Since Nord Stream passes through the territorial waters and/or the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany, permits to construct and operate the pipeline must be obtained from each of these five countries in accordance with their national legislation. National legislation generally requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be completed as a prerequisite for a national permit.

Moreover, as a project in a trans-boundary context, numerous international conventions play a significant role within the Nord Stream permitting process, especially the United Nations Convention on the Environ-

mental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, also called the Espoo Convention. It was signed in the Finnish city of Espoo in 1991 and came into force in 1997. It governs international consultation processes for cross-border projects which might cause transboundary environmental impacts. Therefore, in the case of Nord Stream, the international consultations, apart from the countries under whose jurisdiction the project is to take place, also included Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

With the nine Baltic Sea countries participating, the Nord Stream Espoo process has become the biggest-ever international consultation procedure on transboundary impacts.

► all interested parties, whose comments have been considered in the project design. National Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are central to such discussions. Their purpose is to assess the potential impact of the project on the Baltic Sea, helping all relevant stakeholders to cooperate in developing a safe and environmentally-sound pipeline. Nord Stream carried out these EIAs with internationally-renowned companies such as Rambøll (Denmark), Marin Mäteteknik (Sweden) and IfaÖ (Germany).

Since 2006, Nord Stream has participated in more than 20 official public hearings, 16 meetings with officials from the nine Baltic littoral countries and took part in public discussions and expert seminars. These consultations resulted in numerous comments from private persons and public bodies in the Baltic Sea countries which were considered in the project planning.

### Info Available Online and on Location

Public participation is now entering the second phase. In Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany it has been agreed that the public participation will cover the Espoo Report along with the national EIAs submitted by Nord Stream. In Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland the participation will cover the potential transboundary impacts.

Depending on the specific national legislation and in accordance with the relevant authority requests, the Espoo Report and national application documents are available to the public online and in the coastal municipalities for up to two months.

During this period, national authorities, citizens and interest groups have the opportunity to state their opinions on the documents. The national authorities will collect these statements, which will then be dealt with in the permitting procedures.

In addition, the results of the EIA documentations are to be presented at public meetings as part of the two-month public consultation phase. During this time, Nord Stream will explain the results in detail and continue to hold an open dialogue with all stakeholders. These meetings will generally take place in public facilities. The actual presentation of any material will also depend on the specific conditions and regulations in each country.

Once the public comments have been collected, the relevant authorities will review the material and consider it in their decision. Obtaining all necessary permits is the precondition for starting the pipeline construction in 2010 and to start transporting gas from Russia to Europe in 2011.

► [www.nord-stream.com/permitting](http://www.nord-stream.com/permitting)

### WEB NEWS

Nord Stream launched a special web page providing information on the permitting processes and regulations, as well as enabling access to the Espoo Report and other documents. More detailed information on this and the relevant application materials are presented on country-specific pages.

► Please visit: [www.nord-stream.com/eia-permitting.html](http://www.nord-stream.com/eia-permitting.html)

# Nord Stream Conducts In-depth Research to Mitigate Negative Environmental Effects

Pipeline project designed to preserve Baltic Sea ecosystem

The Baltic Sea is a unique marine ecosystem because of its shallow waters and limited water exchanges with the world oceans. Human activities therefore require detailed analysis to ascertain potential impacts and threats to the marine environment.

The most detailed scientific research ever undertaken of the Baltic Sea is at the heart of the Nord Stream Project. It involves more than 40,000 kilometres of travel along its seabed. With an investment of more than 100 million Euros, this research forms the basis of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). The national authorities of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany, after making the results publicly available, will assess them before deciding on their consent to the construction and operation of the 1,220-kilometre Nord Stream Pipeline.

## Minimising Impact on the Environment

The EIA process aims to evaluate the potential impact of the project as to identify, mitigate and avoid possible negative effects on the environment, human health and welfare. This ensures that environmental factors are considered in the decision-making process, leading to the development of the best plans for environmental management and monitoring.

Nord Stream surveyed more than 2,500 square kilometres with more than 150 monitoring stations investigating water quality, sediment contamination, plankton, bird habitats and marine life. The results are reflected in the



On board: Engineers carrying out detailed scientific research.

### The Scope of Nord Stream's EIA Documentation

The reports include the assessment methods and results regarding the physical, biological, social and socio-economic environmental impacts.

- Physical environment:
  - Physical processes
  - Water column
  - Seabed
  - Atmosphere
- Biological environment:
  - Plankton
  - Marine benthos
  - Fish
  - Sea birds
  - Marine mammals
- Nature conservation areas
- Social and socio-economic environment:
  - Fisheries
  - Shipping and navigation
  - Tourism and recreation
  - Cultural heritage
  - Offshore industry
  - Military operations

project design to ensure long-term safety and to minimise any physical, biological and socio-economic impact.

The Nord Stream Pipeline is in the category of mainly "low-level" impact, having only local or temporary effects. During the construction phase there will only be temporary effects relating to pipeline-laying vessels and the preparation of the seabed. Once the pipeline is in operation, the affected areas will recover. The pipeline is basically a foreign object such as a sunken vessel on which flora and fauna will form a new underwater community.

> [www.nord-stream.com/baltic-sea-studies](http://www.nord-stream.com/baltic-sea-studies)

## AGENDA

### PUBLIC HEARINGS:

**21.04.2009:**

Bornholm, Denmark

**22.04.2009:**

Gotland, Sweden

**30.03. – 31.03.2009:**

Inter-parliamentary hearings "The Nord Stream Project: Parliamentary Dimension" organised by the Russian State Duma, St. Petersburg, Moscow

**14.04. – 16.04.2009:**

9th Annual Global Gas Village Summit, Milan, Italy

**22.04. – 23.04.2009:**

4th Pipeline Technology Conference (part of the Hannover Messe), Hanover, Germany

**19.05.2009:**

Russian Gas Society Conference, Berlin, Germany

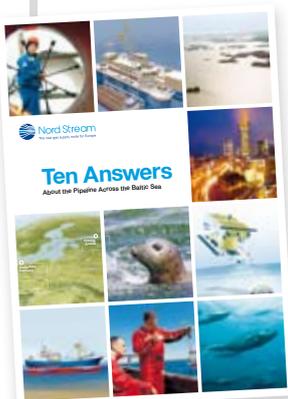
IN BRIEF

**Ten Key Answers**

Ten questions, ten answers – in ten languages. Nord Stream has prepared a clear and concise information brochure about the pipeline across the Baltic Sea. The '10 Answers' brochure provides easy explanations to the most frequently asked questions about Nord Stream. Key issues addressed in the publication include: "Why an offshore pipeline, and not an overland one?", "How safe is it?", "Is the pipeline compatible with fishing?" and "Will Europe be dependent on gas from Russia?".

In this 24-page brochure, Nord Stream deals transparently with major concerns voiced about the natural gas pipeline.

The brochure is available in English, German, Russian, Swedish, Finnish, Danish, Estonian, Polish, Lithuanian and Latvian.



> To download or order printed copies go to: [www.nord-stream.com/10answers](http://www.nord-stream.com/10answers)

**DID YOU KNOW ...**

**1** The biggest Espoo process prior to Nord Stream was for the Baltic Gas Interconnector pipeline between Germany, Denmark, Sweden.

**2** Environmental research for the project is conducted by renowned companies such as Sweden's Marin Mätteknik and Germany's IfAÖ.

**3** Around 2,500 square kilometres of the Baltic Sea were surveyed to determine the pipeline's optimal route and design.



Representatives of Russian NGOs study the detailed project information.

**Russian NGOs Praise Project's Transparency**

Third round-table meeting in St. Petersburg

**D**uring the third round-table meeting of Nord Stream with Russian environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in St. Petersburg in early February 2009, environmentalists cited the planned pipeline as one of the country's most transparent infrastructure projects.

"This is a breakthrough for Russia that establishes new standards for relations between companies and NGOs", said Elena Kobets from the Environmental Centre Bellona. "We hope that this good

practice will continue." Russian environmentalists asked numerous questions and received detailed answers regarding issues such as the project's latest developments, munitions handling and pipeline safety. Additionally, they discussed potential environmental impacts of the optimal route in Russian waters and in the Gulf of Finland. Delegates also raised the issue of supporting the establishment of the new Ingermanlandsky nature reserve near Gogland island.

> [www.nord-stream.com/petersburg](http://www.nord-stream.com/petersburg)

**Public Info PIT Stops**

**T**he Pipeline Information Tour (PIT) truck is on the road again in spring 2009 to provide the general public with comprehensive and interactive information on Nord Stream. It will make stops at about 30 events in countries where public consultations and permitting processes are taking place. The truck started its tour in Finland in the beginning of March 2009. After visiting the Finnish coastal cities of Helsinki, Kotka, Turku, Hanko and the island of Åland it will continue its tour to other Baltic Sea states.

> [www.nord-stream.com/pipeline-information-tour](http://www.nord-stream.com/pipeline-information-tour)



The Pipeline Information Tour is on the road again.



People of all ages want to know about the planned pipeline.

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