

PRESS RELEASE

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Nord Stream publishes all 129 comments on Baltic Sea pipeline after international consultations

Zug, 27 June 2007. Nord Stream AG has now published all 129 comments received as part of international consultations for the gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea. Since November 2006, when Nord Stream officially notified all relevant authorities of its plans to build the pipeline from Vyborg to Greifswald, the company has received statements from private and public bodies in the Baltic Sea countries (Denmark 5, Estonia 12, Finland 50, Germany 29, Latvia 1, Lithuania 1, Poland 1, Russia 1, and Sweden 29). In the first phase of the consultation process, now completed, Nord Stream participated in 22 public hearings and meetings in various countries.

As a cross-border project, Nord Stream is subject to international conventions and national legislation in each of the countries directly or indirectly affected. Before construction can start, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be completed and published. The process is governed by the Espoo Convention.

Nord Stream AG seeks open dialogue and believes in informing the general public as widely and comprehensively as possible on this major project. As part of its commitment to transparency, the company is publishing in English all 129 comments on the proposed pipeline on its corporate website.

Comments focus on the impact on the seabed and commercial fisheries as well as on dumped and residual munitions – issues which Nord Stream and its shareholders have addressed and researched for some years. The comments will be incorporated into the final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report required under Espoo. The structure of this report was finalised in March 2007. The report itself is due for publication in 2007.

The received comments can be viewed on:

http://nord-stream.ru/eng/project/regulatory_aspects/statements/

Notes for editors:

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union via the Baltic Sea. European gas import needs are projected to grow about 230 bcm by the year 2015. By connecting the world's biggest gas reserves with the European gas pipeline network, Nord Stream will meet about 25% of that additional requirement. The project will be an important contribution to long-term security of supply and a test of the energy partnership between the European Union and Russia.

Nord Stream AG plans to have the first of two parallel pipelines, approx. 1,200 kilometres long, each with a transport capacity of some 27.5 billion cubic metres per annum, operational in 2010. In the second phase, capacity should double to about 55 billion cubic metres a year. The permission process for the project, which involves the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in accordance with international conventions and national legislation, started recently in the Baltic Sea countries.

The Espoo Convention sets out the obligations of parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of states to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant environmental impact across national borders. The Espoo Convention was opened for signature in Espoo (Finland) on 25 February 1991 and came into force on 10 September 1997. Nord Stream started its consultation process under the Espoo Convention with the notification of the project in November 2006.

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new offshore gas pipeline. Gazprom holds a 51% stake in the joint venture. Wintershall and E.ON Ruhrgas hold 24.5% each.

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