

PRESS RELEASE

Application Documents for Nord Stream Pipeline in Germany Submitted

Stralsund/Hamburg, 12 December 2008. Nord Stream AG today submitted the German application documents for the construction and operation of the gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea to the competent authorities, the Stralsund Mining Authority and the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency in Hamburg. The documents concern the 81 km-long pipeline segment in the area of the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the German Territorial Waters, and the landfall area of the pipeline in Germany. Permitting processes are required for the other pipeline sections in the waters of Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Russia, according to the respective national laws of these countries. The Nord Stream Pipeline from Vyborg in Russia to Lubmin near Greifswald in Germany is 1,220 kilometres long.

Nord Steam has carried out the most extensive environmental surveys and planning in the Baltic Sea. The results of these studies were documented in the more than 3,700 pages of German application materials for the European pipeline project. As a whole, these documents contain a general proposal, a non-technical summary, an environmental impact analysis, the FFH¹ impact study, an accompanying conservation plan, and a special report with regard to wildlife conservation law.

The Stralsund Mining Authority and the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency will check the nine files of comprehensive application documents for completeness in the coming weeks. Both agencies have agreed on a consolidated application and permitting process. The start of the four-week public consultations, as required by law, is planned for the first quarter of 2009.

The submission of the application materials in Germany, following submission of the application documents in Sweden, marks the start of the second national permitting process for the construction and operation of the Nord Stream Pipeline. Preparation in Germany began with a scoping event in January 2007, in which 29 public authorities and environmental organisations discussed the desired scope of surveys with the project developer.

The process will start in Denmark, Finland, and Russia in early 2009 with the submission of respective country-specific application documents. International consultations in accordance with the Espoo

¹ Flora-Fauna-Habitat

Convention, including all Baltic Sea littoral states, will continue simultaneously. The process ensures that all countries are sufficiently informed on possible cross-border environmental effects.

For further information please contact:

Jens Müller, Communications Manager,
mobile: +41 79 295 96 08

Steffen Ebert, Communications Manager Germany,
mobile: +49 1520 456 80 53

E-mail: press@nord-stream.com

Notes to editors:

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union via the Baltic Sea. The European Union's gas imports were 314 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 2005 and are projected to grow by almost 200 bcm to 509 bcm per year by 2025 (Source: European Commission/DG-TREN, 2007). Nord Stream will meet about 25 per cent of this additional requirement by connecting the European gas pipeline network to the world's largest gas reserves. The project will be an important contribution to long-term security of supply and a milestone of the energy partnership between the European Union and Russia.

Nord Stream AG plans to have the first of two parallel pipelines operational in 2011. Each line is approximately 1,220 kilometres long, providing a transport capacity of some 27.5 bcm per year. Full capacity of about 55 bcm per year will be reached in the second phase, when the second line goes on stream.

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new offshore gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea. OAO Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. BASF/Wintershall Holding AG and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 20 per cent each, and N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 per cent stake.