



Nord Stream

The new gas supply route for Europe

PRESS RELEASE

Transboundary Environmental Report for

Nord Stream Pipeline Confirmed

Next round of public participation to start in March 2009

Zug, 13 February 2009. The transboundary environmental report (Espoo Report) for the Nord Stream gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea will be ready for public participation in early March 2009. Until then, the Nord Stream consortium will incorporate all final comments and remarks. This was confirmed at an international consultation meeting in Copenhagen today with officials from the nine Baltic littoral countries.

According to the United Nations Espoo Convention, countries under whose jurisdiction a proposed activity is envisaged to take place must inform their neighbouring countries about potential transboundary environmental impacts. For this purpose, Nord Stream as the project developer had provided the countries with an English version of its Espoo Report documents.

In Copenhagen it was confirmed that Nord Stream will submit this report in the nine languages of the Baltic Sea states by the beginning of March. The authorities will then make the transboundary environmental report available for public participation in line with the national legislation in each country.

“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 intensive 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.”

“The Nord Stream consortium has spent more than 100 million Euros on environmental impact studies and environmental planning to ensure that the design and routing of the pipeline through the Baltic Sea will be environmentally sound and safe. The start of public participation on our Espoo Report will mark an important milestone for Nord Stream, and confirms that we are on schedule to start transporting gas from Russia to Europe in 2011,” says Dirk von Ameln.

National permits to construct and operate the pipeline are required from the countries through which the Nord Stream pipeline will pass: Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. These countries will involve



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the other Baltic Sea countries on the potential transboundary impacts as part of the Espoo process. In the five countries it is expected that the public participation will cover both the Espoo Report on potential transboundary environmental impacts and the national Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) submitted by Nord Stream as part of the consortium's applications for national permits.

Nord Stream's Espoo Report follows intensive dialogue with authorities throughout the Baltic region to ensure that the pipeline is safe and environmentally sound in line with all national and international requirements. This international consultation process started in spring 2006 and as of today 15 meetings with officials from the nine Baltic littoral countries have been held.

Nord Stream will eventually be able to supply 55 bcm of natural gas a year, the equivalent of 25% of the additional imported gas that Europe is expected to require due to increased demand and depleting resources in the North Sea.

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For detailed information on the international consultation process (Espoo process) and the status of the national permit applications, please download: http://www.nord-stream.com/Update_Espoo_process

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.



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The UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (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's process under the Espoo Convention has started in April 2006.