

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Nord Stream's Danish Application Available for Public Consultation**

**Copenhagen, 10 March 2009.** The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the Nord Stream natural gas pipelines in Danish Territorial Waters and the Danish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) was published yesterday by the competent authority, the Danish Energy Agency.

The national EIA report will be available for public review and comments for eight weeks in the public libraries of Copenhagen, Ålborg, Odense, Århus, Rønne and Nexø. The report can also be accessed via the Danish Energy Agency's, the Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning's and Nord Stream's websites.

During the public consultation phase, Danish authorities, citizens and other interest groups have the opportunity to state their opinions on Nord Stream's EIA report. As a part of the public participation procedure, a public hearing event will be organized and chaired by the Danish Energy Agency on Bornholm on 21 April 2009.

Nord Stream AG will host two seminars during the public consultation phase to continue its constructive dialogue about these key issues with its stakeholders.

**"Dimensions of Secure Energy Supply – A European Perspective":**  
19 March 2009, 10-12 CET

**"The Future of the Baltic Sea – Energizing the Environment":**  
12 May 2009, 10-12 CET.

The national EIA report is a result of detailed environmental surveying and comprehensive consultation with the Danish authorities and other interest groups. In the course of this process, Nord Stream investigated several routes north and south of Bornholm. The now selected so-called S-Route was developed following a request by the Danish authorities to evaluate an alternative route south of Bornholm. Compared to a route north of Bornholm, the S-route minimises risks related to maritime traffic and environmental impact by seabed intervention works. It also avoids nature preserves and minimises the number of cable crossings that would have been necessary on the route north of Bornholm.

National permits to construct and operate the pipeline are required in accordance with domestic legislation of those countries through whose

waters the Nord Stream Pipeline will pass: Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. Nord Stream has also prepared a transboundary environmental report ('Espoo Report') in accordance with the UN Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. Nord Stream's Espoo report is the result of an intensive dialogue with the competent authorities of nine Baltic littoral states. They confirmed that the report is ready for public participation starting in March 2009 also. The Espoo Report is published as an annex to the Danish national EIA report and is also published at the Danish Energy Agency's and Nord Stream's websites.

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**Detailed information on the Nord Stream EIA and consultation procedures is available at Nord Stream's website: [http://www.nord-stream.com/dk/eia\\_permitting.html](http://www.nord-stream.com/dk/eia_permitting.html)**

**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.

**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.