

STATEMENT

Nord Stream Acknowledges Stakeholder Comments

Zug, 7 May 2009. The Nord Stream project is subject to international conventions and the national legislation of countries, the waters of which the pipeline will traverse – Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. At present, the national permitting processes and the international consultations are going according to plan in the public participation phase as per the Espoo Convention. This week was the deadline for filing statements related to the national permitting processes in Germany, Denmark and Finland.

Stakeholder participation and engagement seek to identify any issues that need to be resolved and ensure that mitigation measures are appropriate. Before issuing permits to Nord Stream, authorities will carefully assess the potential impact of the Nord Stream project. All relevant stakeholder comments will be taken into account. The authorities will communicate all outstanding issues to the project developer, and plans for construction and operation of the pipeline will be adapted if necessary.

Consequently, Nord Stream will not comment on any individual statements at this stage in the permitting process.

The transboundary environmental report (“Espoo Report”) and the national application documents were developed in terms of scope and methodology over three years of close cooperation with all Baltic Sea states’ authorities. The documents have accounted for a substantial number of comments received from all Baltic Sea countries during various rounds of consultation. They contain the results of detailed environmental studies of the Baltic Sea conducted over many years. Moreover, Nord Stream has analysed and integrated scientific data and studies from other organisations such as HELCOM.

Therefore, Nord Stream is confident that the design and routing of the pipeline is safe and environmentally-sound.

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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 annual natural gas import needs in the year 2005 were approximately 314 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to 509 bcm by the year 2025. This means that by 2025, the EU's annual import needs will have increased by almost 200 bcm (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 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.

The Espoo process for the Nord Stream project was formally initiated with the Notification of the Project in November 2006. Nord Stream AG submitted a Project Information Document (PID) on the planned pipeline to the competent national authorities in Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany in accordance with the Espoo Convention. The Espoo notification procedure took place from November 2006 to February 2007.