



Nord Stream

The new gas supply route for Europe

STATEMENT

Nord Stream Pipeline Project Completes

Public Participation Phase in Baltic Sea Region

16th meeting of international working group discussed handling of submitted statements

Stralsund, 16 June 2009. A two-day meeting of the international Espoo working group, which brings together representatives from various ministries and authorities of the nine Baltic Sea countries, ended today in Stralsund, Germany. The countries informed each other about the statements submitted by the public and stakeholders in recent months about Nord Stream's transboundary environmental report for its planned gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea.

In March, Nord Stream as the project developer provided the Baltic Sea countries with the transboundary environmental report ('Espoo Report') in the nine languages of the Baltic Sea states and English. According to the United Nations Espoo Convention, countries under the jurisdiction of which a proposed activity is envisaged must inform neighbouring countries about potential transboundary environmental impact. Nord Stream's Espoo Report follows intensive dialogue with authorities throughout the Baltic Sea region to ensure that the pipeline is safe, environmentally sound and in line with all national and international requirements.

National permits to build and operate the pipeline are required from the countries through which waters the Nord Stream pipeline will pass: Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. These countries also involved the other Baltic Sea countries in determining potential transboundary impact as part of the Espoo process.

As a result of the public participation period from March to June, statements relating to the project were submitted to the competent authorities from associations, authorities and private bodies in all countries of the Baltic Sea region. These statements have been distributed among the countries. The authorities of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany will now discuss the remaining issues regarding Nord Stream and will consider the effects of the pipeline in the national permitting decisions.



Nord Stream

The new gas supply route for Europe

Comprehensive base for environmental assessment

The findings presented in the Espoo report are the result of detailed surveys and desk studies dating back to 1997 of the project's potential environmental and socio-economic effects. Nord Stream has conducted 40,000 kilometres of seabed surveys along possible routes. This research has enabled the Nord Stream consortium to propose a safe and environmentally sound route, avoiding environmentally sensitive sites, cultural heritage and munitions wherever possible.

The international consultation processes began in spring 2006 and as of today, 16 meetings with officials from the nine Baltic Sea countries have been held. Nord Stream looks forward to further cooperation with the authorities to resolve outstanding issues over the summer, with a view to permits being granted before the end of 2009. Construction of the 1,220 kilometre pipeline is scheduled to start in early 2010.

For further information, please contact:

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

Irina Vasilyeva, Communications Manager, Mobile: +7 916 133 87 81

Email: press@nord-stream.com

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.

The UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) sets out the obligations of parties to assess the



Nord Stream

The new gas supply route for Europe

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.