

STATEMENT

Nord Stream's EIA process finalised in Finland

Important milestone achieved in the permitting process

Zug, 2 July 2009. Nord Stream received the Uusimaa Environment Centre's statement regarding the Baltic Sea gas pipeline's national environmental impact assessment on 2 July, 2009. The statement will be taken into account when the permitting decisions are made in Finland during autumn 2009.

"We are satisfied with the authorities stating that the Finnish EIA process has been completed," said Sebastian Sass, Nord Stream's head of EU relations. "This means that the project is on schedule. We have already cooperated with the authorities intensively for several years. We will now familiarise ourselves with the statement and provide all necessary additional clarifications. Our aim is for the pipeline to be the safest and soundest possible."

The objective of the EIA process was to assess the environmental effects of the project, to ensure that environmental impact is taken into account in planning the project as well as in the Finnish authorities' decision-making process. The EIA process also provided the public with information and the opportunity to participate in the process.

The statement issued by the coordinating authority, the Uusimaa Environment Centre (Uusimaa ympäristökeskus), confirms that the participation arrangements were sufficient and met the requirements of the Finnish EIA law. For example, the discussions with the authorities and other stakeholders contributed to the environmental impact assessment, which is taken into account in the project planning.

The EIA report and the Uusimaa Environment Centre's statement will be considered when the Finnish permits are to be decided. The permits that need to be issued are the EEZ permit from the Ministry of Employment and Economy and the water permit from the Western Finland Environmental Permitting Authority (WFEPA). The transboundary impact on Finland from other countries and the impact from the Finnish EEZ on other countries are described in Nord Stream's Espoo Report.

Construction of the 1,220 km long pipeline is scheduled to start in early 2010. Nord Stream will eventually be able to supply 55 billion cubic metres of natural gas per year. The CO₂ emissions of natural gas are the lowest of any fossil fuel, even 50 percent less than coal.

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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](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 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.