

STATEMENT

Public Referral on Nord Stream Ends in Sweden

Important milestone achieved in the permitting process

Zug, 21 August 2009. The public referral period in Sweden ends today. In total, about 60 institutions will file their final comments today, among them authorities and NGOs who have been invited by the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications to submit their opinions on the project application. The closing of public referral means that the Swedish government can now start preparing a decision on Nord Stream's permit application.

“The end of the public referral period is an important milestone in our project”, said Lars O. Grönstedt, Nord Stream's Senior Management Advisor in Sweden. “The comments will now be made available to Nord Stream to answer upon. We are planning to address them within the next month and then hand over the necessary additional information to the Ministry of Enterprise. Should there be any outstanding issues, we are confident we can solve them this autumn. We have noticed, however, that several of the authorities' previously raised concerns have been addressed and clarified in the additional documentation submitted by Nord Stream earlier this year.”

The Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications had extended public referral after Nord Stream filed supplementary documentation on alternative routings – as requested by the Swedish authorities – on 5 June. This extension allowed all referral bodies to fully review the additional submitted information.

The project application, including the Environmental Impact Assessment, was made available during the referral process, in which the public had the opportunity to participate. The objective of the referral process was thus to assess the environmental effects of the project and to ensure that its environmental impact was taken into account during planning, construction and operation of the Nord Stream pipeline. The objective is to build the pipeline based on an optimised routing with all environmental, economic and social aspects taken into account.

The 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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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.