

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Answers All Questions Raised During Public Referral

Zug, 30 September 2009. Nord Stream has today submitted answers to all the comments and questions raised during the public referral period to the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise.

A total of 52 referral bodies, including authorities and NGOs, who were invited by the Ministry of Enterprise to scrutinise Nord Stream's permit application had submitted their final comments on the project application during spring and summer of 2009. All of their comments and questions have been addressed by Nord Stream.

"We have noted that only a few new issues have been raised during the public consultation process. It is satisfying to note that most of the comments received have been addressed and answered in the previously submitted application documents," says Lars O Grönstedt, Senior Management Advisor to Nord Stream. In addition, Nord Stream has sent additional background material to some referral authorities in order to answer new issues, including questions relating to effects on sea currents, where the estimated potential effects are minor.

However, the scrutiny of the referral bodies represents an important milestone for the project and Nord Stream is pleased to submit these answers. "We are hoping that the government considers that they have received all the required material in order to take a permit decision", continues Lars O Grönstedt.

In addition to the answers submitted to the Ministry of Enterprise, Nord Stream has also filed an Executive Project Summary. The summary highlights the contribution the Nord Stream Pipeline, along with other major planned pipeline projects, will make to countering impending undersupply in European gas markets, and in meeting the future energy demand of consumers and businesses in Europe. The summary also provides an overview of the extensive studies of the Baltic Sea environment which forms the basis for the proposed route of the pipeline.

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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 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.