

## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **Environmental Monitoring Results Confirm Low Environmental Impact From Nord Stream Construction Works**

**The 2011 annual monitoring results confirm: impact is generally local,  
temporary and short term only**

**Zug, September 24, 2012.** Nord Stream conducts an extensive environmental and socio-economic monitoring programme to determine any impact of the construction and operation of the pipelines. The 2011 annual report, the second of five such reports planned, has now been published. The report summarises the national reports for Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany respectively. All the results are publicly available and have been reported to the relevant national authorities. On Nord Stream's own initiative, these results are also shared with all the nine Baltic Sea countries which took part in the international consultations before the start of the pipeline project.

Here is an overview of the monitoring activities and results in each country whose waters Nord Stream passes:

### **Russia**

- In 2011, monitoring of air quality was performed once per month between January and December at seven stations during construction works and installation operations on the shore and in the near-shore area. The monitoring programme for air quality was designed to monitor emissions of pollutants and air quality in the work zone and at the boundary of a residential area.
- All measures of nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulates and hydrocarbons (in relation to kerosene) sampled at monitoring stations located at the boundary of the construction site, and within the area near the village Bolshoy Bor, were below the maximum allowed concentration. Based on the monitoring results, it was concluded that the air quality in the area of the onshore section of the pipelines was in accordance with the requirements of Russian government health norms.

### **Finland**

- In 2011, sediment quality was monitored upon the completion of Line 1 construction at two stations in Finland and three stations in Estonia. The results show that the construction of Line 1 did not cause changes to the concentrations of harmful substances of

surface sediment in Finnish or Estonian waters. Metal and dioxin concentrations were generally low and TBT concentrations lower than in 2010.

- In 2009-2011, monitoring of current speed and direction was carried out at seven stations. Information collected at one station near the installed Line 1 demonstrates that the impact of the pipeline on currents was minor in the direct vicinity of the pipeline and negligible at distances greater than 50 metres (m). Results from six other stations where currents were measured throughout the water column show that the actual current speeds were generally higher than modeled and there were more currents in the north-south direction than modeled. The actual impacts of construction on water quality were, however, in line or less than assessed.

#### Sweden

- Monitoring of ecotoxicological effects in blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) was conducted at Norra Midsjöbanken, a Natura 2000 area. The results show that sediment spreading from post-lay trenching of the pipeline into the seabed did not lead to an increased content of contaminants in mussel tissue, and it was concluded that mussels were not affected by post-lay trenching activity in the area.
- In addition, the monitoring results demonstrate that the sediment and the benthic fauna has not been affected by post-lay trenching, anchor handling or the laying of Line 1 at the monitoring stations in 2011. The recorded temporal changes since 2010 and the spatial differences in 2011 were identified as results of natural changes in the composition and structure of the benthic community.

#### Denmark

- In Danish waters, safety zone restrictions were initially established around 27 cultural heritage locations on the seabed. The monitoring programme for Denmark included monitoring of two locations, i.e. the two wrecks which were situated closest to the pipelines. Underwater footage of the wrecks was recorded in autumn/winter 2010/2011 and the results of the surveys showed that there was no damage to or disturbance of either of the two wrecks during the construction activities for Line 1.
- In July 2011, prior to installation of Line 2, a survey of protected wreck sites identified in Danish waters was conducted. As a result of the investigations, out of the original 27 exclusion zones, only 17 had to be upheld during construction of Line 2, and some of the remaining exclusion zones could be reduced from a 200 m radius to a 100 m radius.

## Germany

- A so called offset measure has been implemented at the German landfall. The goal is to develop coastal sandy and neglected grasslands as a compensation for the disturbance of protected biotopes in the landward landfall corridor of the Nord Stream pipelines. Dune reinstatement/development was carried out successfully in 2010 and 2011, including construction of an artificial dune on top of the pipelines, as well as partial sand exchange around the project area.
- No concentrations of contaminants throughout the sampling periods (the baseline investigation and the post-construction investigation) exceeded the relevant threshold value of the German dredging/dumping regulations.

The report containing all results for 2011 is available for download in [our library](#).

For an insight into Nord Stream's monitoring programme activities in each country, the purpose of these activities, the methods used, the locations where monitoring is carried out, as well as results and conclusions, illustrated with maps and interviews with the researchers and experts involved, please find our [information brochure here](#).

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### **Notes to editors:**

**Nord Stream AG** is responsible for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of natural gas pipelines which link Russia and the European Union through the Baltic Sea. The European Union's annual natural gas imports in 2009 were approximately 312 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to over 523 bcm by 2030. By then, the EU will need additional gas imports of 211 bcm per year (Source: IEA, 2011). Nord Stream will meet more than a quarter of this additional gas import requirement by connecting the European gas pipeline network to some of the world's largest gas reserves. The project will make an important contribution to long-term security of supply and be a milestone of the energy partnership between the European Union and Russia.

**The first of Nord Stream's two parallel pipelines became operational in November 2011.** Each line is approximately 1,220 kilometres long, providing a transport capacity of some 27.5 bcm per year. Line 2 has also already been laid and is currently being prepared for operation. Full capacity of 55 bcm per year will be reached when the second line goes on stream in late 2012 as part of the integrated twin pipeline system. This capacity is enough to supply gas to more than 26 million European households.

**Nord Stream AG** is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of offshore gas pipelines through the Baltic Sea. Russian OAO

Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. The German companies BASF SE/Wintershall Holding GmbH and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 15.5 per cent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and the French energy company GDF SUEZ S.A. each hold a 9 per cent stake.

**Nord Stream is included in the Trans-European Energy Network Guidelines (TEN-E) of the European Union.** In 2006, the project was designated a “project of European interest” by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. Nord Stream is, therefore, recognised as a key project for meeting Europe’s energy infrastructure needs.

**Construction of the first Nord Stream Pipeline** started in April 2010, after completion of environmental studies and planning and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) along the entire pipeline route. Three pipe-laying barges were commissioned to work on the project: Saipem’s Castoro Sei carried out the majority of the construction in the Baltic Sea. The Castoro Dieci completed its operations in German waters, where it constructed both pipelines in the German landfall section; Allseas’ Solitaire handled construction in the Gulf of Finland as a subcontractor of Saipem. The first pipeline became operational in November 2011, the second one is scheduled to become operational in 2012.

**In 2010 and 2011, Nord Stream invested 20 million euros in its Environmental and Social Monitoring Programme (ESMP).** More than 20 specialist companies are conducting the surveys defined in the ESMPs, to determine just how, and if, the Baltic Sea’s flora and fauna have been impacted by the construction of the Nord Stream pipelines. Data from sixteen subjects, including water quality, bird, fish and mammal populations, as well as seabed recovery, are collected from approximately 1,000 survey locations along the route in the waters of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. These data are analysed in internationally recognised laboratories, and Nord Stream reports the results to the national environmental authorities in each country. Nord Stream plans to invest approximately 40 million euros into its ESMP to monitor any impact of the construction and operation of the pipelines through 2016.