

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Presents Overall Environmental and Social Monitoring Programme

Zug, October 28, 2010. Today Nord Stream presented its “Overall Environmental and Social Monitoring Programme” to all of the nine Baltic Sea countries: Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. It has been compiled on Nord Stream’s own initiative and the purpose is to demonstrate Nord Stream’s comprehensive environmental monitoring activities along the pipeline route in the Baltic Sea.

As required in the national permits granted by Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Germany, Nord Stream has prepared five national environmental monitoring programmes, each aiming at documenting the environmental impacts from the construction and operations of the pipelines in the respective jurisdictions. The national monitoring programmes are tailored to meet the requirements of each country.

In order to fully demonstrate the environmental monitoring activities it has undertaken, Nord Stream has decided to compile an “Overall Environmental and Social Monitoring Programme”. For the purpose of transparency, and on Nord Stream’s own initiative, this document has today been presented to all of the nine Baltic Sea countries.

The actual monitoring surveys, and the subsequent reporting of results to the national environmental authorities, have already begun. Nord Stream also intends to provide an overview of the results of the monitoring. The results will be compiled in an annual report and will – just as the “Overall Environmental and Social Monitoring Programme” – be distributed to the relevant authorities as well as being publicly available. The monitoring data will further be made available for research to the benefit of the Baltic Sea environment.

Monitoring activities include e.g. surveys of the physical and chemical environment, such as water quality and seabed sediments. The biological environment, such as bird, fish and marine mammal populations are also monitored. In addition, the socio-economic environment, such as commercial fisheries and potential effects on cultural heritage are monitored. Baseline studies were conducted prior to construction and monitoring will continue for one year after the completion of the pipelines, thereafter the monitoring focus will be changed from the construction to the operation of the pipelines.

More than 20 different survey companies are contracted to conduct the surveys and measurements. The findings are analysed in internationally

recognised laboratories and Nord Stream reports the results to the national environmental authorities in each country.

The "Overall Environmental and Social Monitoring Programme" is available for download at: www.nord-stream.com/monitoring-programme.html

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Notes to editors

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union through the Baltic Sea. The European Union's annual natural gas imports in the year 2007 were approximately 312 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to 516 bcm by the year 2030. This means that by 2030, the EU's annual import needs will have increased by about 200 bcm (Source: IEA, World Energy Outlook, 2009). Nord Stream will meet about 25 percent 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 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 when the second line goes on stream. This is enough gas to supply more than 26 million European households.

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new offshore gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea. Russian OAO Gazprom holds a 51 percent stake in the joint venture. The German companies BASF SE/Wintershall Holding GmbH and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 15.5 percent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and the French energy company GDF SUEZ S.A. each hold a 9 percent 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 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 pipelay barges have been commissioned to work on the project: Saipem's Castoro Sei is carrying out the majority of the construction in the Baltic Sea. The Castoro Dieci has completed its operations in German waters, where it constructed both pipelines in the German landfall section; Allseas' Solitaire handles construction in the Gulf of Finland as a subcontractor of Saipem. The first pipeline is scheduled to be operational in 2011, the second one in 2012.