

STATEMENT

Nord Stream submits the Final Monitoring Report on Munitions Clearance in Finnish Waters

- **The environmental impacts were significantly less than had been predicted in the environmental impact assessments**

Zug/Helsinki, 6 October 2010. Nord Stream has submitted the final environmental monitoring report on munitions clearance in the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The actual results show that Nord Stream's environmental impact assessments were conservative.

Nord Stream conducted munitions clearance in two operations within the Finnish section of the pipeline route - at the end of 2009 and in spring 2010. Altogether 49 munitions were cleared in the Finnish EEZ. The clearance operations were performed in accordance with the permits granted by the Finnish authorities and in compliance with detailed environmental monitoring programmes.

In the Finnish Environmental Impact Assessment and the permit applications the impacts of munitions clearance were assessed to be local, temporary and minor. The monitoring results¹ show that the actual environmental impacts of all munitions clearance operations were significantly less than predicted, confirming that the environmental impact assessments were conservative, as they were based on worst case scenarios which did not materialise.

The results show, that

- the total amount of sediment released was about 10 percent (approx. 420 cubic metres) of the assessed volume (approx. 4,850 cubic metres),
- the measured turbidity values were lower than predicted (highest single values being under 10 NTU²) and the predicted turbidity plumes were not detected,
- the metered average currents were much smaller than 0.2 metres per second (m/s) and no bottom close currents exceeded 0.3 m/s
- the measured pressure waves were in general lower than predicted and the monitoring showed no impacts on cables or cultural heritage,

¹ Nord Stream, Munitions clearance in the Finnish EEZ. Final report on Munition by munition basis. Witteveen+Bos, 2010

² NTU: nephelometric turbidity unit. Measurement unit that indicates the turbidity level of water.

- one seal was observed and deterred from the area prior to detonation, but no seabird or marine mammal casualties were reported. There was only minor impact on fish.
- munitions clearance in Russian waters did not cause measurable impacts on water quality in the Eastern Gulf of Finland.

The experienced contractors used for performance and monitoring of the munitions clearance were Bactec International, Marin Mätteknik, Noordhoek Offshore, Luode Consulting and Kala- ja Vesitutkimus.

Nord Stream's monitoring programmes for munitions clearance in the Finnish EEZ were designed based on the results of the munition-by-munition environmental impact assessments. The monitoring programmes were used to monitor the actual environmental aspects and impacts of the munitions clearance operations.

In addition to the final monitoring report on munitions clearance, the summary of the results will be included in the Annual Environmental Monitoring Report on the construction and operation of the pipeline. The monitoring results have been submitted to the Finnish Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, who are overseeing the compliance of Nord Stream's construction activities in the Finnish EEZ.

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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 2008 were approximately 320 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to around 500 bcm by the year 2030. By then, the EU will need additional gas imports of 160 to 200 bcm per year (Source: IEA, World Energy Outlook, 2010). Nord Stream will meet up to one third 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.

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.

In 2010, Nord Stream invested 13 million euros in its Environmental and Social Monitoring Programme (ESMP). More than 20 companies are conducting the surveys defined in the ESMP, to determine just how, and if, the Baltic Sea's flora and fauna have been impacted by the construction of the Nord Stream Pipeline. Sixteen subjects, including water quality, bird, fish and mammal populations, and seabed recovery, are collected from approximately 1,000 survey stations along the route in the waters of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. The 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 pipeline through 2016.

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.