

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Presents Environmental Monitoring Results

- **Nord Stream publishes report containing all national monitoring results for 2010**
- **The results demonstrate that the environmental impact is in line with the environmental impact assessments or smaller than expected**

Zug, 10 October 2011. In relation to the construction and operation of the natural gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea, Nord Stream conducts ambitious environmental and socio-economic monitoring in each country through whose waters the pipeline passes. Furthermore, for the purpose of providing a transparent overview, Nord Stream has taken the initiative to provide a compilation of the national monitoring results. The overall report, which is published today, contains results from 1,000 survey locations along the entire pipeline route.

The main conclusion of the environmental monitoring conducted in 2010 is that the construction of the Nord Stream gas pipeline has been found to exert no significant impact on the environment. The calculations and models in Nord Stream's environmental impact assessments (EIAs) have thus proven accurate, and it is estimated that the environmental impact so far has been in line with the EIAs or smaller than anticipated.

The Nord Stream monitoring programme is nationally based and aligned to the legislation in each country. However, due to the geographical proximity, transboundary impacts from Finland to Estonia and from Russia to Finland are monitored in the Gulf of Finland. The report which is published today will be distributed to all nine Baltic Sea countries (Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia).

Nord Stream's monitoring programme includes studies in sixteen different subject areas, such as impacts of the construction of the natural gas pipeline on water quality, near seabed currents, birds, fish, as well as seabed recovery. Socio-economic factors are also included in the monitoring, such as possible impacts on cultural heritage and commercial fisheries.

More than 20 specialist companies and research institutions have been contracted by Nord Stream to conduct the surveys. These include: Luode Consulting OY (Finland), SYKE Marine Research Centre (Finland), Marin Mätteknik AB (Sweden), DHI Water Environment Health (Denmark),

Marine Monitoring AB (Sweden), AquaVision (Netherlands), Freie Universität Berlin (Germany) and Ecosafety (Russia).

The data are analysed in internationally recognised laboratories, such as ALS Scandinavia and Verifin in Finland. The results are reported to the national environmental authorities in each country through whose waters the pipeline passes. Nord Stream plans to invest 40 million euros in its environmental and social monitoring programme until 2016. In every year an overall annual report will be compiled. Below is a synopsis of the findings in each country so far.

Russia

- The monitoring observations establish that the environmental impact is local in character and limited in duration.
- Despite intense construction works in Portovaya Bay in 2010, the quality of water has not been significantly affected.
- Concentrations of suspended solids turned out to be lower than the values indicated in the design documentation approved by official Russian expert review boards.

Finland

- The impacts of munitions clearance, rock placement and pipe laying on water quality were minor or negligible in scale, local in extent and restricted to short-term resuspension of seabed sediments. The spreading of harmful substances due to the construction works was minimal and impacts on flora and fauna were negligible.
- No measurable transboundary impacts from the construction works in the Finnish waters on the Estonian EEZ or from the construction works in the Russian waters on the Finnish EEZ were observed.
- Monitoring results confirm that the environmental impact assessments based on modeling are conservative.
- Monitoring showed that munitions clearance or pipe laying did not cause any impacts on wrecks of high cultural value, cables or barrels.

Sweden

- Monitoring activities regarding water quality, hydrography, fish, benthos and fisheries carried out in Sweden during 2010 have been focused on collecting baseline data for measuring impacts from construction and operation activities in vicinity of the two Natura 2000 areas Hoburgs Bank and Norra Midsjöbanken.
- Results from 2011 (reported to Swedish authorities in June 2011, see [here](#)) show positive results from a number of measurements, e.g. no impact on seabed currents and inflow of saltwater to the Baltic Sea as well as no negative effect on the prevalence of contaminants in common mussels. These results will be included in the next annual report (2011).

- The measurements of turbidity close to the two Natura 2000 areas Hoburgs Bank and Norra Midsjöbanken show lower levels than estimated in the environmental study. The threshold value, 15 mg/l, established by the Swedish government in the permit has never been even close to being exceeded. In fact, average turbidity was below 2 mg/l during Nord Stream's trenching activities. These results will be included in the next annual report (2011).

Denmark

- Wreck monitoring before and after installation of the first pipeline showed that no damage or disturbance had occurred to cultural heritage sites during construction activities of the first pipeline.
- The results from the chemical munitions monitoring showed that no damage occurred to the five chemical munitions objects during construction of the first pipeline.
- Monitoring activities regarding seabed sediment, hydrography, fish and benthos carried out in Denmark during 2010 have been focused on collecting baseline data for measuring impacts from construction and operation activities.

Germany

- Monitoring of water quality showed that turbidity values which resulted from seabed intervention works were in line with the predictions of the Nord Stream EIA modeling approach. The results of the extensive background turbidity measurements indicate that no measurable impacts on the pelagic environment occurred.
- Results of marine mammal monitoring indicated that underwater noise emissions from Nord Stream construction activities did not cause detectable effects on grey seals numbers in the Bay of Greifswald or harbour porpoises presence in the Pomeranian Bight.
- Aerial seabird surveys showed that the construction activities by the Nord Stream ships turned out to be an additional source of disturbance, but its influence could not be separated from the disturbance effects caused by the existing commercial shipping traffic. Seal monitoring activities revealed that measurable disturbance effects did not occur during offshore construction works between May and December 2010.

The entire report is available for download [here](#).



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Notes to editors:

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that now links 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 over 500 bcm by the year 2030. By then, the EU will need additional gas imports of 188 bcm per year (Source: IEA, 2011). Nord Stream will meet almost 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.

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.

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 handled 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 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.