

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Submits the Results of Environmental Monitoring in Russia for 2011 to the National Authorities

- **The monitoring results confirm Nord Stream's successful implementation of mitigation measures**
- **The impact of construction activities on the environment in Russia was minor, local and short term only, if any at all**
- **The 2011 annual report on environmental monitoring in Russia was positively assessed by the authorities**

Moscow, April 23, 2012. Nord Stream AG submitted their annual report on environmental monitoring along the Russian section of the offshore pipeline to the respective Russian Environmental Authorities. The results of the monitoring activities conducted throughout 2011 show that Nord Stream's mitigation measures for the various construction activities have proven to be successful. In line with the findings of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) Nord Stream's activities resulted in only minor impact with short duration. All set limits were adhered to and there was no tangible impact.

The report is based on the results of monitoring conducted in parallel to Nord Stream's construction activities in three major areas: in the Russian waters of the Gulf of Finland, in Portovaya Bay and on the 1.5 kilometres of the dry section on the Russian shore near Vyborg. Data were collected from over 70 onshore and 21 fixed offshore water monitoring stations, 9 netting and 4 trawl stations in Portovaya Bay and 10 stations of higher aquatic plants and macroalgae (macrophytes) monitoring. Apart from that, satellite monitoring data were used to monitor turbidity.

Environmental studies stipulated by the Russian monitoring programme cover a wide spectrum of parameters, such as air, noise, soil, water, sea flora and fauna and seabed sediments. According to the results of the studies, none of the assessed parameters showed negative impacts from the construction activities. In the majority of samples, the measured parameters were below the assessed levels and set threshold values. In very few cases certain parameters had already exceeded limits before the start of the construction activities and are assessed to have been caused by natural processes and anthropogenic factors.

Nord Stream's 2011 annual report on environmental monitoring in Russia has received a positive assessment by the Russian authorities. Mr. Nuritdin Inamov, the Director of International Cooperation Department of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment noted:

“Russian and foreign experts note high professional competence of Nord Stream’s experts, who perform their activities in strict compliance with the schedule, profound analysis of monitoring data and consistency of these data. It is important that the results obtained comply with forecasts, and some values are even better than the forecast”.

Onshore monitoring

Onshore monitoring covers numerous parameters, such as air, soil, flora and fauna, surface waters and noise. Evaluation of the monitoring data has revealed no negative changes in the parameters.

Noise emissions were investigated to determine whether the construction activities induced any impact on the surroundings areas. The sampling showed that noise levels never exceeded the normative threshold of 55 dBA and were mostly between 41 and 43 dBA.

Laboratory testing results of air sampling at the construction site and adjacent areas showed that the maximum single concentration of pollutants (particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons) was typically lower than the maximum permissible concentration (MPC).

Offshore monitoring

Similarly, careful monitoring of offshore activities in 2011 confirmed Nord Stream’s construction activities to be in full compliance with environmental and water regulations.

The results of the water sampling in Portovaya Bay show that concentration values of most pollutants did not exceed the maximum permissible concentration (MPC), and the concentration of most metals in the Bay waters was lower than the MPC.

There was a major focus on monitoring the water parameters in Portovaya Bay in the context of the pressure test water release after pre-commissioning of Line 1. The results of the monitoring show that the impact of pressure testing on Portovaya Bay was insignificant and short-term. No water pollution associated with the pressure tests was detected. Changes in the bay water parameters were minimal and largely due to the contribution of natural phenomena (wind, currents, local sea temperature fluctuations, natural surface water discharge).

Monitoring of marine ecosystems shows that construction of the deep water part of the pipeline had only minor effects on migrating birds in the open area of the Gulf of Finland. This area is not used by most birds for feeding purposes due to its significant depths. There were 62 species of birds monitored in 2011. Compared to 2010, monitoring results reported eight more bird species.

Data collected in 2011 show an increase in the diversity of fish species compared to 2010. Also, plankton surveys have found spawning and nursery grounds for juvenile coastal species and herring in Portovaya Bay. This positive development is expected to continue as the installed gravel berms provide for an excellent habitat for spawning.

Satellite monitoring

In addition to onshore and offshore monitoring, satellite monitoring was carried out in order to assess the potential impact resulting from sediment re-suspension caused by the pipeline construction activities in the eastern part of the Gulf of Finland. Satellite monitoring of this area in 2011 confirmed the results of similar investigations in 2010. According to the information obtained from satellite images, the pipeline construction had no visible impact and all values were below permissible levels. Natural fields of suspended sediments in the Gulf of Finland may have much bigger scales and intensity than any construction-induced observation. Turbidity caused by construction was up to 100 times lower than turbidity levels resulting from natural causes. No transboundary impact from construction of the Russian section of the pipeline on Finnish waters and coastal areas was detected.

The Russian environmental monitoring programme was developed pursuant to the Russian environmental law and the national permit requirements issued for the construction of the Nord Stream pipelines. Monitoring activities include surveys of the physical, chemical and biological environment.

For the entire length of the Nord Stream route more than 20 companies were contracted to conduct environmental and social monitoring in compliance with the various monitoring programmes. In 2010 and 2011 Nord Stream invested 20 million euros in the programme. A total of 40 million euros will be invested between 2010 and 2016. Data covering 16 parameters is collected from approximately 1,000 survey locations along the route, analyzed in internationally recognised laboratories, and the results are reported to the national environmental authorities in each country.

The “Report on Environmental Monitoring of the offshore part of Russian section of the Nord Stream gas pipeline according to requirements of Minprirody of Russia for 2011” is available [here](#).

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Notes to editors

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline which links 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 be an important contribution to long-term security of supply and 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. All of Line 2 has now also already been laid. Full capacity of about 55 bcm per year will be reached when the second line goes on stream in late 2012. 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 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 pipelay vessels 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.

No intermediate compressor station: Nord Stream was able to design its offshore pipeline to operate without an intermediate compressor station, but with three different design pressures and pipe wall thicknesses as the gas pressure drops over its long journey from Russia to landfall in Germany. The connection by hyperbaric tie-in of these three pipeline sections was carried out at the two offshore locations where the design pressure changes from 220 to 200 bar and from 200 to 177.5 bar respectively. The connection of the Gulf of Finland and Central sections of the first pipeline took place off the coast of Finland at a sea depth of approximately 80 metres, and the connection of the Central and South Western sections off the Swedish island of Gotland at a depth of approximately 110 metres. The three sections of Line 2 will be connected underwater at the same locations in May and June.