Nord Stream
The new gas supply route for Europe

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Presents Results of the Environmental Monitoring in German Waters for 2011

- **No unanticipated impacts in the second year of construction**
- **No detectable disturbance of seabirds and harbour porpoises**
- **Successful physical seabed reinstatement in pipeline trench areas**

Zug, July 31, 2012. Nord Stream conducts an extensive environmental and socio-economic monitoring programme in relation to the construction and operation of the natural gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea. Reports are published aligned to national legislations in each country through whose waters the pipeline passes. At the beginning of July, the results of the monitoring during construction of Line 2 and seabed recovery in German waters were reported to the relevant German permitting and environmental authorities.

The report shows that the construction of Line 2 in German waters had no unanticipated impacts on the environment. In 2011, construction activities in Germany lasted from September through November.

During construction in 2011 surveys were conducted on possible effects on resting seabirds and harbour porpoises in the Pomeranian Bight. As in 2010 there were no detectable disturbances on both groups of animals.

In the summer of 2011 extensive surveys were carried out to monitor the success of the physical seabed reinstatement in the pipeline trench areas. For this, the seabed was surveyed along the entire route of the pipeline in the German sector and restored reef structures were monitored by remotely operated vehicles. Sediment samples were collected for physical and chemical laboratory analysis. The results of the measurements helped to verify the projections about the affected area that had been established in the environmental impact assessments. The results of the monitoring were positive: there was no release of significant amounts of sediment pollutants and the backfilled sediment had not been contaminated either. Also, the impact area had the projected size.

The complicated excavation logistics for the recovery of the top layer of the seabed were successful: Sand quality on the seabed surface largely meets the original condition and only one year after the end of construction the submarine relief has re-settled in many parts of the route.

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Glacial stones that were placed in the trench area during reef restoration provide a suitable location for algae, barnacles and mussels to grow on.

Furthermore, in 2011 Nord Stream began with the onshore and offshore monitoring of resettlement of the areas affected by construction in 2010. The monitoring was able to verify that plants and animals started to repopulate the restored areas as predicted. During the next years further surveys will be conducted to give an indication on the pace of this process. It is expected that these areas will be fully repopulated by 2014.

The monitoring programme in the German sector is the most extensive environmental monitoring carried out by Nord Stream in the five participating countries along the pipeline in the Baltic Sea. The reason is that the pipeline in the German sector passes through nature conservation areas and had to be entrenched for safety reasons in various parts of the shallow waters in the Bay of Greifswald and the Pomeranian Bight.

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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 make an important contribution to the long-term security of supply and is 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 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 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.

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.

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