

## Press Release

# Nord Stream 2 Begins Environmental Impact Assessment in Russia

- > **Terms of reference and environmental impact assessment program for Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline published in Russia**
- > **In addition, project developer presents results of comprehensive assessment of Russian landfall options**
- > **Comprehensive analysis was the basis for proposing the optimal pipeline route in terms of environment and safety**
- Nord Stream 2 adheres to best practice and complies with international environmental and social standards**

**[Zug, Switzerland – 12-Apr-17]** Nord Stream 2 AG, the developer of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project, has started the environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure in Russia. The relevant project documents, including the terms of reference and the EIA program, were disclosed for public discussion and consultation as the first phase of the EIA procedure.

In addition to the required documents, the company also published the reports prepared by independent environmental consultants providing a comparative environmental assessment of the route options for the Russian section of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. The reports present the results of the comprehensive analysis of various technical, environmental, social and economic factors.

Based on the comprehensive analysis of the route and landfall options, the Narva Bay route in the Kingisepp District of the Leningrad Region has been defined as the preferred option due to its smaller overall environmental and social impact. The final decision on the Russian landfall will be made by the Russian environmental authorities.

The documents have been made available for public review in cooperation with the administration of the Kingisepp District in accordance with the established procedure, as well as on the company's website. The materials will be accessible for review for 30 days.

In the next phase, Nord Stream 2 AG will carry out the EIA in line with the terms of reference and present the draft EIA report for public consultation. The EIA procedure is the main condition for obtaining the required permits to build the new pipeline through the Baltic Sea. The EIA includes analysis of hydrometeorological, geological, biological, social, economic and other conditions, as well as nature protected areas, rare species, vulnerable habitats and other factors. The EIA assesses all potential environmental and



social impacts from the planned activities and describes environmental protection measures.

Simon Bonnell, Head of Permitting, Nord Stream 2 AG, commented: “On top of compliance with Russian law, Nord Stream 2 AG, as a responsible developer of a major infrastructure project, has committed to applying best practices and adhering to international environmental and social standards. We are aware of our responsibility to preserve the conservation value of all sensitive areas to be traversed by Nord Stream 2. Our experts are developing optimal technical solutions and a comprehensive biodiversity conservation plan. As a next step, we will discuss our proposals with the expert community and relevant authorities.”

Nord Stream 2 AG has also published a transboundary environmental impact assessment report in line with the UN Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context (Espoo Convention). The document, which has been produced in 10 languages, is available to the public in all countries of the Baltic Sea region. Publication of this report continued the international consultations on the project.

### **About Nord Stream 2**

Nord Stream 2 is a planned pipeline through the Baltic Sea, which will transport natural gas over 1,200 km from the world's largest gas reserves in Russia via the most efficient route to consumers in Europe. Nord Stream 2 will largely follow the route and design of the successful Nord Stream pipeline. With Europe's domestic gas production projected to halve in the next 20 years, Nord Stream 2's twin pipeline system will help Europe to meet its future gas import needs, with the capacity to transport 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year, enough to supply 26 million European households. This secure supply of natural gas with its low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will also contribute to Europe's objective to have a more climate-friendly energy mix with gas substituting for coal in power generation and providing back-up for intermittent renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar power.

Nord Stream 2 builds on the outstanding success of the existing Nord Stream pipeline and will generally follow its construction and design. This project has been cited as an example of mutually beneficial international cooperation and a key element in the future energy security of the European continent. The environmental monitoring results show that the environmental impact of the construction and operation of Nord Stream has been minor, local and short term only, and in some cases the impact has been considerably lower than had been assessed in the EIAs.

The Nord Stream 2 project is currently at the planning and engineering design stage. The project was initiated by PJSC Gazprom and is supported by a number of leading international energy companies Uniper SE and BASF SE/Wintershall Holding GmbH (Germany), Royal Dutch Shell plc (the UK and the Netherlands), OMV AG (Austria) and Engie S.A. (France).

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