

Press Release

Nord Stream 2 and Environmental NGOs Discuss Route Selection in Russia

- > **Project developer provided explanation of the route selection approach in Russia**
- > **Nord Stream 2 has been engaged in an active dialogue with international and regional NGOs and all interested parties from the early stages of the project implementation**
- > **Participants have exchanged positions and agreed to continue the dialogue at the expert level to discuss open questions on route selection**

[St Petersburg – 18-May-17] Today Nord Stream 2 AG, the developer of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project through the Baltic Sea, held another meeting with major international and regional environmental NGOs. The round table meeting gathered together representatives of WWF, Greenpeace, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Coalition Clean Baltic and their regional partners from Green World, Friends of the Baltic, Monitoring BTS, Baltic Fund for Nature, environmental experts and engineers. Nord Stream 2 specialists and experts from reputable research organisations and institutions discussed the route selection for the Russian section of the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline as well as a comparative environmental assessment of the route options.

The company illustrated the process used to select the Narva Bay route as the preferred option in terms of environment, safety and necessity to deliver additional gas to the region.

Independent environmental consultancies Eco-Express-Service LLC and Frecom LLC presented the reports providing a comparative environmental assessment of the route options for the Nord Stream 2 pipeline in Russia. These documents are the results of comprehensive studies and analysis of various technical, environmental, social and economic factors that were the basis for proposing the optimal pipeline route. Both reports are available on the company's website.

Nord Stream 2 AG is aware of its responsibility to preserve the conservation value of the Kurgalsky reserve. The company began the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and the public consultation procedure in Russia.

Nord Stream 2 AG is committed to implementing the project in line with Russian requirements and international standards, including the Performance Standards of the International Finance Corporation, which represent global best practices of environmental and social management.

The final decision on the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline route will be made by the competent Russian authorities based on the conclusion of the state



environmental expertise on the EIA report. The draft EIA report will be submitted for public review in summer 2017. The state environmental expertise conclusion is scheduled for autumn 2017.

Nord Stream 2 is taking note on the concerns raised by the NGOs but is confident that it can assess, mitigate and compensate environmental impacts in line with national requirements and international standards, eventually achieving a net-positive gain of the conservation value of the Kurgalsky reserve. The company is developing a comprehensive and long-term Environmental and Community Initiatives programme to that end.

The company has been engaged in a dialogue with international and regional NGOs and other stakeholders from the early stages of the project implementation to ensure that public opinion is taken into account in decision-making.

The company and NGOs have not only discussed concerns raised by NGOs but also agreed to continue the dialogue among experts in a working format to ensure a comprehensive discussion of open questions on route selection.

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 CO₂ 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.

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