

Press Release

Nord Stream 2 Completes Two Months of Public Consultations in Russia

- > **Public consultations on the draft environmental impact assessment (EIA) report were ongoing for 60 days**
- > **Proactive and detailed dialogue with experts and communities**
- > **Final EIA report will take into account comments and recommendations**

[St. Petersburg, Russia – 4 October 2017] Nord Stream 2 AG, the developer of a new pipeline to supply Russian natural gas through the Baltic Sea to the EU market, has completed the 60-day public consultation process on the draft EIA report for the project in Russia. During public consultations Nord Stream 2 has received a number of statements to the draft EIA report from environmental NGOs, academic institutions and the public. The statements will be considered when finalizing the technical design, the environmental impact assessment and mitigation measures. They will also be included in the 'Materials of Public Consultation' within the final EIA documentation to be submitted for the state environmental expert review in the next month.

The draft EIA report was released for public review on 4 August 2017 and the public hearing was held on 4 September in Kingisepp, Russia. There all stakeholders had the opportunity to provide their feedback and comments on the environmental aspects of the project.

During the public consultation period, the company engaged in a proactive and substantive dialogue with environmental experts and the public. In particular, the project organized round table discussions on key environmental issues. The project was presented in nine communities in the Kingisepp district, where more than 200 residents took part in the information meetings organized by the regional and municipal authorities. Additionally, four focus-group meetings on specific environmental topics were held with environmental scientists, experts and NGO representatives in August.

Nord Stream 2 welcomes a constructive dialogue to ensure environmentally sound project implementation and appreciates all relevant input, comments, and recommendations.

As a responsible developer of a major infrastructure project, Nord Stream 2 strives to avoid and minimize impact on the environment through careful planning, thorough assessment and a comprehensive program of environmental protection measures.



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About Nord Stream 2

Nord Stream 2 is an international project for a gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea to ensure reliable supplies of Russian natural gas to the key EU market in the long term.

Nord Stream 2 draws on the success of the first Nord Stream gas pipeline and will largely follow its route. Environmental monitoring during construction and operation of the pipeline has proven that the impact on the environment was minimal, local and short-term and that in a number of cases it was significantly lower than originally anticipated.

The draft EIA report for the Russian section of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline is based on the results of comprehensive survey work carried out for the project over the last five years by leading scientific organizations and also taking into account data on the state of the environment from environmental organisations such as the Helsinki Commission. The document presents an assessment of the impact of project implementation on the atmosphere, water bodies, geological conditions, biotic and other environmental elements, as well as on regional socio-economic conditions in the Nord Stream 2 construction area.

In addition to the EIA procedure set out in Russian law, international consultations on the Nord Stream 2 project's potential transboundary environmental impacts have also been carried out in line with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). Despite the fact the Russian Federation has not ratified the Espoo Convention, it has voluntarily taken on the obligations of Party of Origin for the Nord Stream 2 project as far as national legislation allows.

The Nord Stream 2 project was initiated by PJSC Gazprom with support from international energy companies Uniper SE and BASF SE/Wintershall Holding GmbH (Germany), Royal Dutch Shell plc (UK and Netherlands), OMV AG (Austria) and Engie S.A. (France).

Media Contact:

Irina Vasilyeva

Head of Corporate Communications

+41 79 239 53 39; +7 916 133 8781

press@nord-stream2.com

Twitter: [@NSP2_Rossiya](https://twitter.com/NordStream2)

YouTube: [Nord Stream 2](#)

VK: [Nord Stream 2](#)