



To the Points of Contacts for Espoo Convention
in Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Denmark,
Poland, Sweden and Russian Federation
as of enclosed list

Notification in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for the Nord Stream Extension

As Party of Origin Finland hereby notifies, according to Article 3 of the Espoo Convention of the project by Nord Stream AG to construct and operate a natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea linking The Russian Federation and Germany and crossing the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Finland, Sweden and Denmark.

The Nord Stream AG is planning to construct and operate an offshore natural gas transmission system consisting of two separate pipelines with a diameter of each 1,2 m crossing the Baltic Sea between The Russian Federation and Germany.

The company has submitted a description of the project and the intended assessment of transboundary and environmental impacts (Nord Stream Extension, Project Information Document, March 2013).

The project can be found as item 8 (large-diameter oil and gas pipelines) on the list of activities in Appendix I to the Espoo Convention, that are likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact. An environmental impact assessment procedure according to the Convention thus has to be performed for the Nord Stream Extension project in the above mentioned countries, which are Parties of the Convention, and The Russian Federation.

The project can be found also on the list of activities in the Agreement between Finland and Estonia on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; thus this agreement shall be applied to the project as well

Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland regard themselves as Parties of Origin under the Espoo Convention. The Russian Federation is a signatory but not a Party to the Espoo Convention. However, The Russian Federation will act as a Party of Origin as far as it considers it possible according to its legislation. All nine Baltic Sea States, including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland are regarded as Affected Parties under the Espoo Convention.

The four Parties of Origin and The Russian Federation have agreed to send out identical notification letters to each Affected Party. Nevertheless, since the nature of decision and of the EIA procedure is different for each country, the descriptions of these will differ. The additional information to this notification is enclosed on a memory stick (USB). For practical reasons a paper version of the documents will be sent out by Nord Stream AG on behalf on the Parties of Origin.

The Convention states that the concerned Parties shall ensure that the public in the areas likely to be affected is informed of and provided with possibilities for making comments or objections on the proposed activity. Furthermore the states shall ensure the transmittal of these comments to the competent authority of the Party of origin (Articles 2.6 and 3.8).

Referring to Article 3.3 of the Espoo Convention, Finland kindly asks the addressed Parties to respond until 18 June 2013 at the latest and

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
- indicate, whether your country intends to participate in the EIA procedure
- provide comments concerning the scope for the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project on your EEZ and territory.
- submit any comments you might receive from the public in your country.

Subsequent to the notification, the developer plans to prepare an EIA documentation, which will then - according to the provisions of the Espoo Convention - be sent by Finland to the Affected Parties, who have indicated their wish to participate in the environmental impact procedures. Then the Affected Parties will have the opportunity for consultation of authorities and public participation (Art. 4.1 and 4.2).

Information on the national permitting procedure

The Finnish EIA procedure consists of two phases: the EIA programme (scoping document) phase and the EIA documentation phase. The assessment procedure began when the developer, Nord Stream AG, submitted the EIA programme to the coordinating authority, the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Uusimaa. The EIA programme contains information on what are the potential environmental impacts of the project and on the alternatives to the project that are proposed to be studied and assessed. Authorities, the public and NGOs are entitled to comment on the EIA programme from 8 April until 6 June 2013. The coordination authority will take into account the comments received, domestically and from abroad, and will issue its own opinion on the EIA programme. In its statement, the coordination authority will indicate which investigations the developer must concentrate on. In accordance with the Finnish EIA legislation, the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Uusimaa must submit its own statement to the developer on the adequacy of the EIA programme by 5 July 2013 at the latest. This statement will be sent to the Point of Contact of your country.

It is the duty of the developer to assess the environmental impacts of the project and its alternatives. The developer draws up the assessment documentation report on the basis of the investigations carried out. Authorities, the public and NGOs are entitled to comment also on the EIA documentation. The coordination authority collects all the opinions and comments submitted on the EIA documentation and, after taking these into account, issues its own opinion on the EIA documentation. The EIA procedure is concluded when the coordination authority forwards its own statement to the developer on the adequacy of the EIA.

The EIA must be carried out before any decisions on the permit can be made. The developer attaches the EIA documentation and the coordinating authority's statement to the permit application for a permit under the Water Act to the Regional State Administrative Agency for Western Finland. This permit is a construction permit, but it will also describe the loca-

tion of the pipeline. The permit decision is mostly based on environmental considerations, but also other interests related to the matter will be taken into account. Government approval for use of the exclusive economic zone, in accordance with the Act on the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone, will be required. The EIA documentation will also be attached to the application for this approval.

The Finnish Ministry of the Environment is the Point of Contact of the Espoo Convention in Finland. Kindly send the answer to this notification to:

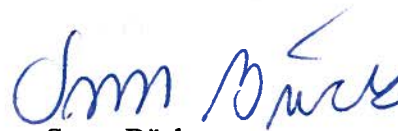
Ministry of the Environment
Registry
PO Box 35
FI-00023 Government
Finland

Director General
on behalf Permanent Secretary Hannele Pokka



Helena Säteri

Head of Unit
Environment Counsellor



Saara Bäck

Additional information

For additional information please refer to the documents on internet:

Information to this notification to the Affected Parties under Art. 3 of the Espoo Convention

1. Nord Stream Extension Project Information Document March 2013
<http://ym.fi/download/noname/%7B6A2E3693-6987-4BD9-BE0D-5D7F2880139D%7D/32777>
2. Nord Stream Extension EIA programme for Finland
<http://ym.fi/download/noname/%7BD92AC5AA-30B3-4F4E-B5BC-73832E6BD154%7D/32779>

The documents have been elaborated by the developer.

For more information about the project itself please contact the developer:

Nord Stream AG
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Switzerland
www.nord-stream.com

For more information about the procedure in Finland, please contact:

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