



Ministry of the Environment

Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and
Communications

Nord Stream AG
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Request for a supplement to the application for a permit for a pipeline system under the Continental Shelf Act (1966:314) and the application for a permit to build and use a service platform under the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone Act (1992:1140)

On 21 December 2007 Nordstream AG (the Company) submitted to the Government an application for a permit to lay two pipelines on the continental shelf and an application for a permit to construct and use a service platform in the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone. The pipeline system will transport natural gas from Russia to Germany. The applications are being processed under the Continental Shelf Act (1966:314) and the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone Act (1992:1140).

To enable an assessment of the environmental impact of the planned activities and an examination of the applications for permits under these two Acts and subject to the international conventions Sweden has undertaken to comply with, the applications need to be supplemented as follows.

1. Environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Espoo Convention

The planned project to build pipelines and a service platform is subject to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context, i.e. the Espoo Convention, to which Sweden is a party. The Espoo Convention requires, among other things, that an environmental impact assessment be included in a permit application. All parties to the Espoo Convention that will be affected by the planned activities have agreed that the Company is to produce an environmental impact assessment for the entire project, in other words, for the entire route of the pipelines.

The Espoo Convention also states that transboundary consultation must take place. The views put forward during these consultations must be

taken into account in the preparation of the environmental impact assessment. It cannot be ruled out that the results of consultations, and their consequences for the design of the project, may necessitate changes to the applications and the environmental impact assessments for both the pipelines and the service platform.

In accordance with the Espoo Convention, the permit applications submitted to the Government for consideration need to be supplemented with an environmental impact assessment covering the entire route of the pipelines and with the results of the transboundary consultations. Where applicable, an explanation must be offered as to why it has not been possible to take into account views received.

2. Results and consequences of ongoing and planned studies and inquiries

It appears from the applications that several studies and inquiries are still taking place or are being planned. This applies to, for example, the survey of the presence of munitions along the proposed route of the pipelines, geotechnical tests and testing in the area proposed for the location of the service platform as well as the examination of alternative solutions for pressure-testing of the pipelines.

The results of these studies and inquiries may necessitate changes in the content of the applications.

The permit applications submitted to the Government for consideration need to be supplemented with the results and consequences of the ongoing and planned studies and inquiries.

3. Elaboration of the purpose of the project, alternative routes for the entire route of the pipelines, alternative locations for the service platform and the no action alternative

The Espoo Convention states that the purpose of the planned project, reasonable alternatives to the proposed route of the pipelines and the alternative of not taking any action must be presented in the permit application.

Presenting alternative routes is a prerequisite to allow an environmental and risk comparison to be made between the proposed route and other routes. An assessment of this kind also requires that alternatives are presented and described for the entire route of the pipelines.

The permit application for the service platform submitted to the Government for consideration needs to include an environmental impact assessment in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Swedish Environmental Code. This environmental impact assessment must inter alia include

alternative locations and alternative designs along with a description of the consequences of the platform not being constructed at all. Under Chapter 2 of the Swedish Environmental Code, the location chosen must be one that will cause the least detriment to the environment. The location of the platform is determined by the route of the pipelines and therefore cannot be specified before the environmental impact assessment has been conducted, in accordance with the Espoo Convention, for their entire route.

The permit applications submitted to the Government for consideration need to be supplemented with a detailed description of the purpose of the project and alternative routes for the entire route of the pipelines, alternative locations for the service platform and the no action alternative.

4. Detailed and in-depth application documentation for the service platform

A permit application must be precise and definite. Incomplete or insufficiently substantiated application documentation cannot form the basis for the assessment of an application.

The Espoo Convention, the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone Act, and the Swedish Environmental Code state the minimum requirements for documentation. In view of the sensitive environment of the Baltic Sea, the documentation must meet high quality standards.

The permit application for the service platform submitted to the Government for consideration needs to be supplemented with detailed and in-depth documentation in the technical description and in the environmental impact assessment. It may be observed that it is the sole responsibility of the Company to ensure that the application meets high quality standards.

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