



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment

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19.9.2017
YM2/5521/2013

Mr. Egon ENOCKSSON
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Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
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Response to the consultation in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) for the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline

Referring to your letter dated 30 June 2017, Finland is hereby sending a response prepared by Nord Stream 2 AG concerning the questions and comments received from Sweden on the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the project by Nord Stream 2 AG. The purpose of the project is to construct, as well as operate, a natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea linking Russia and Germany and crossing the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of Finland, Sweden and Denmark, and the territorial waters of Denmark.

The EIA procedure for Nord Stream 2 AG's Gas Pipeline project in Finland has ended. The statement by the competent authority on EIA (UUEDELY/3100/2017), the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Uusimaa, specified that the contents of the assessment report on the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline project meet the requirements of Finland's EIA legislation. In its statement, the competent authority also included some recommendations to be taken into account in the further planning of the project and in the permitting procedures.

The competent authority on EIA also requested in its statement that the developer replies to the extent necessary to the questions and comments received from the affected Parties. Enclosed is the response prepared by Nord Stream 2 AG to the comments received from Sweden. Additionally, a translation of the statement by the competent authority on the EIA report is enclosed.

If you wish to continue the consultations on the EIA procedure, please respond **no later than 10 October 2017**. Provided that no request to continue with the consultations is received by 10 October 2017, Finland will regard the process for consultation on EIA completed in accordance with the Espoo Convention.

Finland would like to state that in the decisions on the proposed activity, due account will be taken of the outcome of the environmental impact assessment, including the EIA documentation, and of the comments received thereon and of the outcome of the consultations in accordance with Article 6 of the Espoo Convention. Furthermore, Finland will subsequently provide to the affected Parties the final decision on the proposed activity along with the reasons and considerations on which it was based.

Please send your answer to

Ministry of the Environment
Mr. Lasse Tallskog
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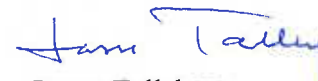
Yours sincerely,

Permanent Secretary



Hannele Pokka

Ministerial Adviser



Lasse Tallskog

Enclosures

1. Responses to Relevant Comments to the Espoo Report in the Statement from Sweden, Nord Stream 2 AG.
2. The statement on the environmental impact assessment report on Nord Stream 2, a natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea, Finland (UUELY/3100/2017) dated 26 July 2017, unofficial translation in English.

For information (without enclosures)

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
The Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland
The Ministry for Foreign Affairs