



Translation from Bulgarian language

**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER
DECISION
REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

No 3-2/2013

On the grounds of art. 99, Para 2 from the Environmental protection Act, art.19, Para 1 from the Regulation concerning the conditions and way for realization of environmental impact assessment (the EIA Regulation) and in connection with art.31 from the Law on biological diversity and art.39, Para 12 and 13 from the Regulation concerning the conditions and way for realization of appropriate assessment of plans, programs, projects and investment proposals with the subject and purposes of the protected areas preservation (the AA Regulation),

I DO APPROVE

The realization of investment proposal for **"CONSTRUCTION OF THE SECTION OF "NABUCCO" GAS PIPELINE ON THE TERRITORY OF REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA"** according to revision D of the gas pipeline route and according to usage of the method of horizontal directional drilling in Danube River crossing.

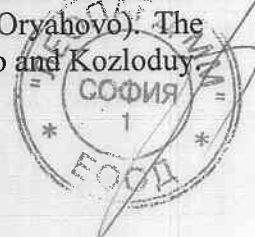
Contracting authorities: "Nabucco Gas Pipeline Bulgaria" EOOD
having its seat and registered address in Bulgaria, Sofia 1000, No 11A, "Aksakov" str., fl.5,
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"Nabucco Gas Pipeline international" GmbH
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Short description of the investment proposal:

The "Nabucco" gas pipeline is a pipeline, designated for natural gas transmission from the eastern border of Turkey to Baumgarten, Austria, through Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary. The aim is to be developed a gas pipeline system for transmission of gas from different/various sources in the region of Caspian Sea and the Near East to Central Europe. The gas pipeline has a maximum length of 3 900 km and it is designed for an annual flow of 31 billion cubic meters-capacity at the final stage. At each state border there are envisaged (to be established) fiscal metering stations, as well as block valve stations -located at equal intervals along the route.

The Bulgarian section of the gas pipeline starts at the south-east border with Republic of Turkey, near Strandzha village. On Bulgarian territory the gas pipeline follows the south-east-north-west direction till Danube River (the border with Romania close to Oryahovo). The "Nabucco" gas pipeline crosses Danube River in the region between Oryahovo and Kozloduy



The gas pipeline route has been selected on the grounds of 500 m corridor, developed during the initial stage of the feasibility study and this corridor is conditionally divided into four sections:

I section: from km 0 to km 76 – parallel to existing gas pipelines;

II section: from km 76 to km 206;

III section: from km 206 to km 305 - parallel to existing trunk gas pipeline (North ring);

IV section: from km 305 to km 392.

Do sections I and III alternatives of the 500 m corridor have not been developed because the selected corridor appears parallel to the existing gas pipeline infrastructure, according to the good practice on construction of gas pipelines.

For sections II and IV from the feasibility study, initially have been proposed 20 km of corridors for review. Within the frameworks of these 20 km of corridors via usage of the method for corridor narrowing and through optimization of the developed 500 m corridor, alternatives of the route have been reviewed in comparison with the alternative, which has been initially developed and studied (revisions “A”, “B” and “C”). The developed alternatives have been verified through terrain visits and researches in connection with the opportunities for their realization and the impact over the environment.

After revision “C” has been developed, some geological, hydrological, hydro-geological and topographical works have been made as well as ecological field surveys. On the grounds of the results from these researches the gas pipeline route has been selected, having construction strip and easement/ servitude according to the preferred route **revision “D”**.

The gas pipeline route crosses 9 (nine) districts on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria – Yambol, Burgas, Targovishte, Shumen, Ruse, Veliko Tarnovo, Lovech, Pleven, Vratsa and 24 (twenty four) municipalities – Bolyarovo, Straldzha, Sredets, Sungurlare, Varbitsa, Omurtag, Targovishte, Antonovo, Popovo, Byala, Strazhitsa, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Polski Trambesh, Pavlikeni, Levski, Pordim, Pleven, Dolni Dabnik, Iskar, Dolna Mitropolia, Knezha, Letnitsa, Lovech and Oryahovo. The gas pipeline route under **revision “D”** is 422 (four hundred twenty two) km. The maximum altitude is 770 (seven hundred seventy) m in the region of Stara Planina and the minimal altitude is 25 (twenty five) m- in the plane of Danube river. The gas pipeline route consecutively crosses areas with hilly, mountain and flat terrain. Around 94% from the route crosses flat and hilly terrains (with slope < 5%) and only 6 % of the route passes by mountain terrain.

The land usage in the properties, located within the frameworks of the servitude, which mostly corresponds to the construction strip of the route under revision “D” is as follows:

- forests- 149.58960 hectares
- agricultural lands- arable lands- 1113.29050 hectares
- agricultural lands-pastures- 225.74130 hectares
- agricultural lands-perennial plans (vineyards and orchards)- 18.58140 hectares
- water areas- 8.48390 hectares
- urbanized territories/ industrial zones- 0.08590 hectares
- other- 4.45420 hectares
- total- 1520.22680 hectares

The Bulgarian section of “Nabucco” consists of:

- underground gas pipeline 422 km, with technical characteristics: diameter of 1422 mm, working pressure 100 bars;
- above - ground installations (AGI) as follows:
- block valve stations (BVS) - 16, in each 30 (thirty) km as a maximum distance, located in fenced sites with dimensions 33x30 m.



- interconnection with measuring station and station for pressure reduction (close to Lozenets) with an area of 1,43 hectare;

- pigging station (PS) - 1 (close to Omurtag) with an area of 15,9 hectares;

- border gas - metering station (BGMS) and pigging stations (close to Oryahovo), located on a site with an area of 15,9 hectares;

The power supply of the above - ground installations shall be provided by the local power supply systems with medium and low pressure, upon coordination and approval by the respective operation companies of the lines and the places for diversion. It is envisaged the supply to be realized through underground cables in cases where the lines are remote. For provision of alternative power supply it is envisaged usage of diesel generators.

The gas pipeline shall be underground, with minimal depth of the soil cover 1 m. The depth shall be enlarged in crossing railways and roads. In crossing rivers the depth of laying shall be minimum 2 m under the river bed.

The servitude strip (the right of way) shall have the width of 36 m. This width shall be reduced to 30 m in special sensitive areas - in crossing forest territories and zones of sanitary - protective areas (SPAs) near water sources and installations for water-domestic supply. The standard construction (working) strip coincides with the servitude strip. In the following cases there are necessary to be made temporary enlargements of the construction strip:

- crossing of railways and roads- as a total number for the project-57 decares (around 900m² in case of each no-dig crossing)

- river crossing- as a total number for the project- 332 decares;

- widening of the construction strip, check points for turning and meeting of the construction machinery- each of these shall be around 1000 m²;

The connection point at the Romanian - Bulgarian border with the Bulgarian section of the gas pipeline shall be at kilometer 685+300 from the Danube river. On the Bulgarian bank the profile of crossing is near to Oryahovo town, located against the Romanian port Bechet, at the mouth of Ogosta river. The place of crossing Danube river has been determined by bilateral agreement between Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Romania after both banks have been studies in details.

Two alternative methods for crossing Danube river have been considered - method of open cut and trenchless method (with horizontal directional drilling) as in cases of both methods the construction works on the Bulgarian bank shall be realized in front of the protective dyke and won't affect it.

The technological process of the works in the river upon usage of the open cut method shall comprise: operations on digging the trench, including in case of a stream flow, unloading the excavated material at the place, determined for disposal, laying the pipeline in the trench, taking the material, necessary for covering the trench, from the storage site, unloading of the material from a barge on the trench, hydraulic testing of the gas pipeline.

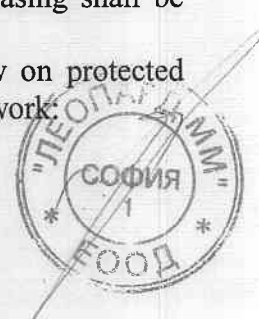
The technological process of the works in the river according to the method of horizontal directional drilling comprises: realization of pilot drilling with drilling fluid and steam under high pressure, enlargement of the drilling, scalping/ seeping the pipe, hydraulic testing of the gas pipeline.

It is recommended to be used the method of horizontal directional drilling, upon usage of which there are no expectations for significant impact over the environment, incl. trans-boundary impact (not expected).

The crossing of Ogosta river shall be realized via trenchless method (pipe casing shall be placed) under conditions of low water.

The gas pipeline route does not affect protected areas by virtue of the Law on protected territories, but it shall cross the following protected areas under Natura 200 network:

- For preservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna:



BG0000219- "Derventski vazvishenia-2"
BG0000198- "Sredetska reka"
BG0000196- „Reka Mochuritsa“
BG0000205- „Straldzha“
BG0000136- „Reka Gorna Luda Kamchia“
BG0000231- "Belenska gora"
BG0000619- "Reka Yantra"
BG0000239- „Obnova- Karaman Dol“
BG0000240- „Studenets“
BG0000181- „Reka Vit“
BG0000613- „Reka Iskar“
BG0000614- „Reka Ogosta“

- For bird preservation

BG0000240- „Studenets“
BG0002066- „Zapadna Strandzha“
BG0002028- „Komplex Straldzha“
BG0002029- „Kotlenska planina“

According to the provisions of art. 31, Para 1 from the Act on biological diversity and art. 2, Para 1, item 1 from the AA Regulation, the investment proposal is under review for its compatibility with the subject and purposes of protection in the protected areas. After assessment under art.39, Para 3 from the AA Regulation that **there is possibility** for the investment proposal to cause significant negative impact over natural habitats, populations and habitats of species, subject of protection in the protected areas and (on the grounds of) instructions, given under art.39, Para 5 from the mentioned Regulation, a report has been developed for assessment the extent of the impact over the protected areas (Appropriate Assessment Report). The expected impacts from the investment proposal (IP) over the subject and purposes of the protected areas are evaluated and reviewed in details in the AA report.

for the following motives (grounds):

1. In the Environmental impact assessment Report (EIA Report) it has been made detailed analysis of the possible impacts on the environment as a result of gas pipeline realization under route revision "D". On the grounds of the assessment and analysis made and in accordance with the legislation in the field of environment the authors of the EIA report recommend to be approved the realization of investment proposal for "construction of the section of "Nabucco" gas pipeline on the territory of republic of Bulgaria" under route revision "D" as in addition measures were proposed for reduction and where possible-avoidance of the significant noxious impacts over the environment as well as a plan for these measures (has been proposed). In the EIA report in trans-boundary context, which subject if Danube river crossing, enclosed to the part "trans-boundary impacts" from the EIA report, detailed analysis has been made of the possible impacts over the environment as a result of the border Danube river crossing and crossing of the rivers- Ogosta on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria and Jiu on the territory of Republic of Romania. In conclusion the authors of the EIA report in trans-boundary context recommend to be used the method of horizontal directional drilling (HDD) for realization of Danube river crossing. Upon usage of this method the functions of the eco-system in the river shall be preserved and it shall not be expected significant impacts over the environment, including here trans-boundary impacts.

2. "Nabucco" gas pipeline is classified by the European commission as priority project from "Trans-European energy networks" ("TEN-E priority project"). With realization of the project it shall be created a new corridor for natural gas supplies in Europe and for the countries-



participants in the project, from economically expedient gas fields. The diversification of the routes and natural gas sources shall be guaranteed which shall contribute for the increasing the security of the gas supplies.

3. With Decision No 616/14.07.2009 issued by the Council of Ministers (CM) "Nabucco" gas pipeline in the section, which shall be constructed on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria has been declared as a project of national importance and with Decision No 283/06.04.2012 the Council of Ministers has declared the project for a national project.

4. The gas pipeline, subject of the investment proposal, shall be connected with the existing National gas transmission network (NGTN) of Bulgaria, which shall ensure natural gas supply, envisaged for consumption in the country.

5. The assessment, which has been made for compatibility of the investment proposal with the subject and purposes of the affected protected areas, gives the opportunity decision to be taken according to art.39, para12 from the AA Regulation. According to the assessment, the realization of the alternative for a route under revision "D" has insignificant negative impact over the protected areas from Natura 2000 network as follows:

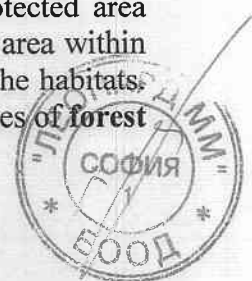
5.1. The construction and operation of the gas pipeline and the above-ground installations, connected with it shall not cause significant negative impact over the protected areas BG0000219 "Derventski vazvishenia 2", BG0000198 "Sredetska reka", BG0000196 „Reka Mochuritsa“, BG0000205 „Straldzha“, BG0000136 „Reka Gorna Luda Kamchia“, BG0000231 "Belenska gora", BG0000619 "Reka Yantra", BG0000239 „Obnova - Karaman Dol“, BG0000240 „Studenets“, BG0000181 „Reka Vit“, BG0000613 „Reka Iskar“ and BG0000614 „Reka Ogosta for preservation of the natural habitats and preservation of the wild flora and fauna, crossed by the gas pipeline route, because:

5.1.1. During realization of the investment proposal within the 12 (twelve) protected areas shall be affected and/ or damaged only four types from thirty six preserved **natural habitats**, subject of preservation in the protected areas, as pointed below:

5.1.1.1. In protected areas BG0000240 „Studenets“ and BG0000181 „Reka Vit“ shall be affected 1,6 ha as a total number, from natural habitat **6210** "*Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco - Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)*", which appears 0,0013% (respectively 0,1% and 0,67% for both areas) from the total area of coverage of the habitats within the area. Natural habitat **6250*** "*Pannonic loess steppic grasslands*" shall be affected in protected area BG0000613 „Reka Iskar“ (0,42 ha or 0,05% from the coverage of the habitat within the area) and in protected area BG0000614- „Reka Ogosta (1,2 ha or 0,9% from coverage of the habitat within the area), so as a total number 1,62 ha or 0,01% from the total area of its coverage within the whole network of protected areas for the habitats. These two types affected **grass natural habitats** shall be able to restore themselves after the construction for two-three vegetation seasons naturally or if necessary- with minimal assistance as it is envisaged in the mitigation measures and the extent of negative impact over them is assessed as insignificant.

5.1.1.2. During the construction, with no chance for natural restoration in the course of operation considering the conditions for maintaining the gas pipeline servitude, there shall be permanently destroyed 2,6 ha from natural habitat **91M0** "*Pannonian-Balkan turkey oak-sessile oak forests*" within the frameworks of four protected areas - BG0000219 "Derventski vazvishenia 2", BG0000198 "Sredetska reka", BG0000239 „Obnova - Karaman Dol“ and BG0000240 „Studenets“, which appears 0,0007% from the total area of coverage in the whole network of protected areas for the habitats. The same concerns also habitat **91Z0** "*Moesian silver lime woods*", which shall be affected only within the frameworks of protected area BG0000240 „Studenets“ over an area of 0,01 ha, which appears 0, 01% from its area within this area and 0,00007% from the coverage in the network of protected areas for the habitats.

Considering affected limited area, the extent of negative impact over these two types of **forest natural habitats** is assessed as insignificant.



5.2. Considering the fact that in the protected areas for preservation of the natural habitats and preservation of the wild flora and fauna shall be reversibly affected 44,4, ha grass habitats and 30, 6 ha agricultural lands as **habitats for the species, preserved in them**, as well as considering the fact that within the whole network of the protected areas for the habitats these are 0, 01% from the open (grass and agricultural areas) the extent of negative impact over them is assessed as insignificant. Permanently affected in national scale shall be 7, 6 ha shrub habitats and 8, 23 ha forest habitats (including the areas pointed in item 5.1.1.2.) as habitats of species, which is 0,002% from the shrub habitats and 0, 00056% from the coverage of the broad-leaved and mixed habitats in the areas. These quantitative calculations do not imply significant negative impact over the habitats of the species, attached to them.

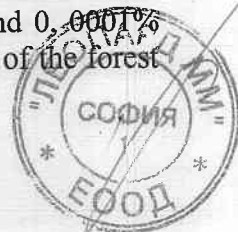
5.2.1. Large part of the species populations, preserved within the boundaries of the protected areas, from the class of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, invertebrates and their habitats won't be affected from the realization and operation of the gas pipeline and the ground installations, pertaining to it. There are impacts ascertained only over part of them and they are assessed as insignificant, because they shall be temporary and reversible, there are envisaged measures for mitigating the impact for overcoming or minimizing (the impact) or it has been selected the most friendly alternative for construction. Impacts in insignificant extent have been ascertained for:

5.2.1.1. Mammals:

5.2.1.1.1. Otter (*Lutra Lutra*): the gas pipeline route shall affect 9 rivers, which provide appropriate habitats in protected areas, in which the species appears subject of protection. These are Parakioyska river in protected area BG0000198 "Sredetska reka", Mochuritsa river in BG0000196 „Reka Mochuritsa“, Luda Kamchia river in BG0000136 „Reka Gorna Luda Kamchia“, Yantra river in BG0000619 “Reka Yantra“, Vit river and Chernyalka river in areas BG0000240 „Studenets“ and BG0000181 „Reka Vit“, Iskar river in BG0000613 „Reka Iskar“, Ogosta river and Danube river in BG0000614 „Reka Ogosta“. Six of them (Mochuritsa river, Luda Kamchya river, Yantra river, Vit river, Ogosta river and Danube river) shall be crossed via no-dig/ trenchless method during the construction; therefore it shall not be expected direct impact over the habitats and populations of the species. The impact resulting as from the project realization shall affect 0, 01% from the length of the river network in the protected areas with appropriate habitats for the otter, that's why their temporary fragmentation and affection shall be insignificant, after it their permanent habitats shall be again occupied by the species.

5.2.1.1.2. Hamster (*Spermophilus citellus*): the route shall affect potential habitats in nine protected areas, within which the species appears subject of protection. During the construction shall be temporarily affected 46,9 ha as a total number (around 0, 0064%) from the potential habitats of the species in protected areas for the habitats, with no destruction of acting/vivid colonies. The same concerns also the Roach's Mouse-tailed Dormouse (*Myomimus roachi*), preserved in one protected area, in which shall be affected 39, 3 ha (0,005%) potential habitats as a total number. In the eight protected areas, in which the Hamster Dobrogean (*Mesocricetus newton*), the Marbled polecat (*Vormela peregusna*) and the Steppe polecat (*Mustela eversmanii*) are preserved shall be affected respectively 46,5 ha (around 0, 007% from the potential habitats of the species in the network of protected areas for the habitats), 50,3 ha (around 0,007%) and 3,52 ha (around 0, 001%). It is not expected significant extent of negative impact over these species of small mammals as the result of realization of the investment proposal.

5.2.1.1.3. The quantitative calculations regarding the impact of the investment proposal over the Wolf (*Canis lupus*) show that in both protected areas, in which the species is under protection, impact shall appear over 2,66 ha from its potential habitats or around 0, 0001% from their national coverage. Considering the species biology, the fragmentation of the forest



habitats shall not be significant and shall not lead to continuous negative changes in the number and density of its populations.

5.2.1.1.4. The impact over potential habitats of bats from the species *Barbastella barbastellus* and the Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), preserved in four protected areas is connected with destruction of 8,8 ha of forest habitats or 0,0003% from their total area of their national coverage. The pointed minimal field coverage for the "forest" species as well as the lack of natural or artificial underground shelters for bats along the route gives grounds for the assessment that there shall not exist impact over this group of bats.

5.2.1.1.5. During the construction the main impact over the mammals, subject of protection in the areas shall be disturbance, which, considering the proposed measures for mitigation of the impacts shall (mostly) appear as their temporary expulsion after which their permanent habitats shall be again occupied.

5.2.1.2. Reptiles:

5.2.1.2.1. Four-lined snake (*Elaphe quatuorlineata*): the route shall affect potential habitats of the species in 9 protected areas, within which it appears subject of protection. There shall be affected 54 ha as a total number or this is 0,009% from the potential habitats of the species in the network of protected areas.

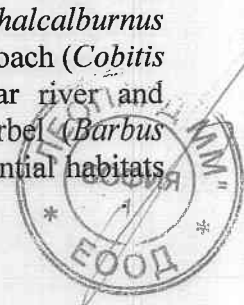
5.2.1.2.2. The land tortoise from the species Spur-thighed Tortoise (*Testudo graeca*) shall be affected in 10 protected areas through reversible damage of 62,5 ha of its potential habitats or this are around 0,007% of their national coverage. The species Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) is subject of protection in nine areas, in which shall be affected 65 ha as a total number - 0,003% of the potential habitats of the network of protected areas. There are measures envisaged to favour the protection of the numbers and structure of their populations. Crossing forest habitats and maintaining open servitude strip appear prerequisite for establishment of new ecotones, favourable for the species. In order to be avoided potential death of single specimens during the construction, there are mitigation measures envisaged so it won't affect negatively on their numbers and density.

5.2.1.3. The particular impacts over the four species of **Amphibians** are connected with temporary and reversible destruction, damage or fragmentation of their potential habitats in forests and open spaces-stagnant water basins or slowly running rivers, covered with river vegetation and their vicinities. The extent of impact over them is determined as insignificant considering the quantitative calculations made and the measures proposed. These are in relation with specifying the time for construction (to be realized), which implies lack of significant impact on their numbers and density.

5.2.1.3.1. The gas pipeline route shall affect potential habitats of the species southern crested newt (*Triturus karelinii*) in eight protected areas, in which it appears subject of protection, on the area of 56,2 ha, which is approximately 0,05% of them in the network of protected areas. The gas pipeline route shall also affect the potential habitats of Danube crested newt (*Triturus dobrogicus*) in three protected areas, in which it appears subject of protection - this shall be made on 6,2 ha or this is around 0,02% of them in the network of protected areas.

5.2.1.3.2. The potential habitats of the Fire-bellied Toad (*Bombina bombina*) shall be affected in seven protected areas, in which it appears subject of protection, on an area of 8,1 ha, which appears around 0,01% of their coverage in the network of protected areas. The potential habitats of the Yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*) shall be affected on 6,3 ha (0,006%).

5.2.1.4. Realization of the investment proposal shall cause temporary and reversible impact over thirteen species of **Fish** in three rivers, falling within protected areas, resp. - temporary and reversible impact shall be caused over the habitats of the Danube bleak (*Chalcalburnus chalcoides*) and Italian barbel (*Barbus plebejus*) in Parakyoiska river, of Spined loach (*Cobitis taenia*) and Amur Bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus*) in Parakyoiska river, Iskar river and Chernyalka river, Goldslide Loach (*Sabanejewia aurata*), Mediterranean Barbel (*Barbus meridionalis*) and Asp (*Aspius aspius*) in Iskar river and Chernyalka river. Potential habitats



of the species: Schraetzer/ striped ruffe (*Gymnocephalus schraetzer*), Sichel (*Pelecus cultratus*) Streber (*Zingel streber*), Balkan Loach (*Cobitis elongata*), Balon's ruffe (*Gymnocephalus baloni*) shall be affected only in crossing Iskar river, and the habitats of the Danube gudgeon (*Gobio uranoscopus*) shall be affected only in crossing Chernyalak river. This is because of the way the route shall cross these rivers, therefore impact shall be caused on 0,0005% of the affected water bodies, included in the protected areas. That's why it is not expected significant extent of negative impact over the fish as a result of realization of the investment proposal. The impacts over the numbers and density of the populations shall be minimized via observing the regulated terms for realization the construction, which take into consideration the species biology and the proposed measures.

5.2.1.5. The representatives of class **Invertebrates**, which shall be affected mainly because of the permanent destruction during the construction and related to it fragmentation of the forest and open habitats, occupied by them, are the following seven species:

5.2.1.5.1. *Paracaloptenus caloptenoides*: The species is subject of protection in protected area "Derventski vazvushenia 2", in which shall be destroyed 0,9% of the open habitats in the area, inhabited by it. This appears only 0,00007% of the area of its potential habitats within the network of protected areas.

5.2.1.5.2. *Bolbelasmus unicornis*: the route shall affect 5,3 ha potential habitats of this species in three protected areas, in which it appears subject of protection. This is around 0,001% of the potential habitats of this species within the network of protected areas. During the realization of the investment proposal there won't be destroyed old forests with dead or decaying wood, so the extent of the impact over the species and its habitats has been assessed as insignificant.

5.2.1.5.3. The impact assessment over the great Capricorn beetle (*Cerambyx cerdo*), Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), Long-horned beetle (*Morimus funereus*) and Rosalia longicorn (*Rosalia alpina*)* is the same as in 5.2.1.5.2., because of the similar ecological requirements of the species. In the all four cases of species shall be affected 9,1 ha or around 0,000001% of their potential habitats within the network of protected areas. The realization of the investment proposal does not envisage destruction of old trees with hollows, appearing habitats of the hermit beetle (*Osmoderma eremita*). Only around 0,0002% of potential habitats in the whole network of protected areas shall be destroyed, which does not imply significant extent of negative impact over the population of the species and its habitats.

5.2.1.5.4. Large Copper (*Lycaena dispar*) is subject of protection in two protected areas, crossed by the route. Considering the fact that its biotopes appear damp meadows, rarely dry grass communities close to water basins or other sources of humidity, from which reversibly shall be affected only 0,0001% of the habitats within the networks of protected areas, the extent of impact over the species is assessed as insignificant.

5.2.1.5.5. Habitat of the thick shelled river Mussel (*Unio crassus*) and potential habitat of Striped nerite (*Theodoxus transversalis*) shall be reversibly affected when the route crossed Iskar river, during which action shall be made dry 0,12% of the water area in the area, but this will be reversible and for a short term. Considering the preferences of these species of aquatic invertebrates to a different substrate, in crossing Iskar river during the construction as far as shall be affected 0,001% of the area and habitats of thick shelled river mussel, included into the protected areas and 0,0007% of the area and habitats of striped nerite. The nature of the impact and the small affected area determine the extent of impact as insignificant.

5.3. The construction and operation of the gas pipeline and the aboveground installations connected with it shall not cause significant negative impact over the subject and purposes of protection in protected areas: BG0000240 „Studenets“, BG0002066 „Zapadna Strandzha“, BG00020208 „Komplex Straldzha“, BG0002029 „Kotlenska planina“ for protection of the birds, through which the route crosses because:

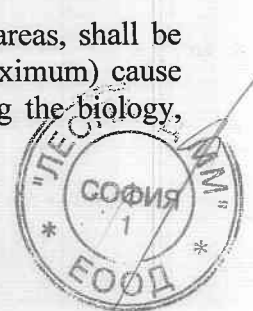


5.3.1. The birds, which nidificate and/or eat in the affected **open habitats** are: Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*), Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), Levant Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter brevipes*), Hazel Grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*), Eurasian Eagle-Owl (*Bubo bubo*), Long - legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), Eurasian Stone-curlew (*Burhinus oediconemus*), Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*), European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*), White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*), Western Marsh-harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*), European Roller (*Coracias garrulous*), Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*), Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), Semicollared Flycatcher (*Ficedula semitorquata*), Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*), Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*), Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*), Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*), Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) and the Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*). In the course of realization of the investment proposal shall be affected temporary and reversibly 102, 16 ha **grasslands**, which is around 0, 024% from the grass habitats, included into the protected areas for wild bird protection. The realization of the investment proposal shall for a short time affect 348,5 ha **agricultural lands** or 0,06% of their total area in the four protected areas, which are used of some species as White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) and the birds of prey mainly as habitats for eating, so the impact over them is assessed also as insignificant.

5.3.2. In four protected areas shall be affected habitats for nesting and/or eating of Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*), Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*), Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*), Olive-tree Warbler (*Hippolais olivetorum*), Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*), Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and the Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*) of 62,1 ha **scrubland**, which appears around 0,03% from the habitats of such nature, preserved within the network from protected areas for birds.

5.3.3. The kinds of birds, subject of protection in the affected protected areas, which nest and/or eat in **forest habitats** are: Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*), Levant Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter brevipes*), Hazel Grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*), Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*), Eurasian Eagle-Owl (*Bubo bubo*), European Nightjar, (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), Middle Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*), Syrian Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*), Black Woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*), Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*), Semicollared Flycatcher (*Ficedula semitorquata*), Booted Eagle (*Hieraetus pennatus*), Olive-tree Warbler (*Hippolais olivetorum*), Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*), Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*), Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*), Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*), European Honey-buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), Grey-headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*), Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*), Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*). It shall be permanently destroyed 54, 4 ha broad-leaved and mixed forests, which are around 0,006% of this type habitats for birds, included into the protected areas for bird protection.

5.3.4. The assessed **disturbance** over the birds, subject of protection in the areas, shall be minimized through implementation of the prescribed measures and shall (maximum) cause their temporary chasing away during the construction after which considering the biology, their permanent habitats shall be again inhabited.



5.4. The assessed **cumulative impact** as a result from the realization and operation of the gas pipeline and the above-ground installations, related to it, over all mentioned protected areas together with former, current and future plans, programs, projects and investment intentions has temporary nature, it shall last only during the construction and shall be insignificant provided that all the mitigation measures shall be observed.

5.5. In the course of selection the location, where the gas pipeline shall pass, several **alternatives** for a route, the sites for the above-ground installations and the construction methods for river crossing. The zero alternative has been also considered. In selection of a variant it has been analyzed the available information regarding the protected areas and the subject of protection in them on the grounds of field/site visits and researches, which have led to proposals for a local re-routing in order to be eliminated possible negative impacts over species or habitats or over the integrity and coherence of the protected areas. The assessment of the extent of impact over the areas for each of the variants appears leading for determination of the preferred gas pipeline route and the location of the above-ground installations.

5.6. Within the one month period for access of the public to the AA Report and in the frameworks of discussing the EIA Report together with (discussion of) the AA Report, enclosed to it, there are no motivated written statements received. There were no motivated written statements received under the hypothesis of art.39, Para 10 from the Appropriate Assessment Regulation.

6. According to letters, issued by basin Directorate for water management (BDWM) - East-Aegean region (outg. No КД-04-61/19.3.2012), BDWM- Danube region (outg. No 1838/23.03.2012) and BDWM -Black sea region (outg. No 04-01-1358/20.03.2012), the investment proposal appears admissible in order to be reached the purposes of the environment and (to be applied) the measures for reaching good condition of the water and the areas for their protection, envisaged in the management plans for river basins (MPRB) of East-Aegean, Danube and Black sea regions. The investment proposal under revision "D" shall not affect I zone of sanitary-protection areas around water sources and installations for drinking-domestic supply, not it shall affect such areas, which are under procedure.

7. The Ministry of health with a statement having outg. No 04-09-268/10.12.2012 has given a positive assessment for the report as it has given motives on the grounds of EIA documentation that there is no health risk expected to arise for the population, as a result from the project realization provided all normative requirements are observed and also the recommendations, pointed in the EIA Report. With a letter No 04-09-268/04.01.2013 the Ministry of health has given also a positive assessment of the part "Trans-border impact" of the EIA Report, as it is stated that it is not expected the project realization to lead to negative impact over the living environment in the settlements and no health risk for the population would arise.

8. During the construction or operation of the gas pipeline there is no expectation to be caused significant, long-term or irreversible trans-border impacts over the environment on Bulgarian territory, nor in Romanian or Turkish territory. The investment proposal as a whole shall be realized on the territories of five countries, as the neighboring countries of Bulgaria- Turkey and Romania, appear countries of origin as regards the part of the gas pipeline, located on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria. Having this, the three countries- Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania ought to consider themselves as interested in trans-boundary context. In order to be implemented the obligations of our country, arising as from the EIA Convention in trans-boundary context, art.7 from the EIA Directive as well as the good practice, there was a procedure held for EIA in trans-boundary context.

It has been received notification from Republic of Turkey in its capacity as a country of origin for the gas pipeline, located on Turkish territory. The notification is about "Project Nabucco for natural gas pipeline-Turkish section (Ankara- Kırklareli: 758 km)". With a letter having



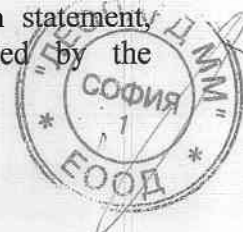
outg. No OBOCY-7720/31.01.2012, issued by the Ministry of environment and water, Bulgaria has informed the Turkish party that it does not have intention to participate in the EIA procedure for the project on Turkish territory. Republic of Bulgaria has notified Republic of Turkey as affected party from the investment proposal on Bulgarian territory. The Ministry of environment and water has received an official answer from the Turkish party with a letter Inc. No OBOC-7720/29.09.2012, that Republic of Turkey shall not participate in the Bulgarian procedure on EIA for "Nabucco" project.

Romania as a country of origin for the gas pipeline, located on Romanian territory has sent a notification for the Romanian part of "Nabucco" gas pipeline. With a letter having outg. No 99-00-431/11.01.2011 the Ministry of environment and water has sent an official letter as it has stated the willing of republic of Bulgaria to participate in the EIA procedure to be held on Romanian territory. Republic of Bulgaria has notified Romania as affected party from the investment proposal on Bulgarian territory. The Ministry of environment and water has received an official answer from Romania-letter with inc. No 99-00-100/18.02.2011. With this letter Romania stated that it shall participate in a trans-boundary EIA procedure.

As a result of agreements, reached between both parties, there was developed a general part to the national EIA Reports of Romania and Bulgaria, which part deals with the impact over the environment in trans-boundary context. The EIA report in trans-boundary context –Danube river crossing-has been assessed positively by the Bulgarian Ministry of environment and water. Consultations were held and it has been given public access to the report for the interested parties on Romanian and Bulgarian territories. Meetings for public discussion of the EIA Report have been held in the towns of Oryahovo and Mizia, which towns are located close to the Bulgarian – Romanian border. There were no comments or issues in relation to trans-boundary impacts, raised during these meetings. No issues were raised also by the Romanian competent authorities. With a letter outg. No OBOC-274/07.03.2013, issue by the Ministry of environment and water, the Romanian party has been informed about the results from the held meetings on Bulgarian territory. In its answer as an affected party, participating in the EIA procedure (letter with outg. No 1170/PR/15.03.2013) no proposals or remarks were made concerning the construction of "Nabucco" gas pipeline on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria.

9. In the course of EIA procedure consultations with interested parties were held. It has been ensured public access to the EIA report and all enclosures to it and meetings for public discussion were held in the municipalities, determined as affected: Bolyarovo, Straldzha, Sredets, Sungurlare, Varbitsa, Omurtag, Targovishte, Antonovo, Popovo, Byala, Strazhitsa, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Polski Trambesh, Pavlikeni, Levski, Pordim, Pleven, Dolni Dabnik, Iskar, Dolna Mitropolia, Knezha, Letnitsa, Lovech, Oryahovo, Byala Slatina Cherven Bryag, Lukovit, Ugarchin, Kotel and Mizia. At the meetings for public discussion, held in the municipalities of Sredets, Kotel, Varbitsa, Omurtag, Byala, Cherven Bryag, Byala Slatina and Oryahovo issues concerning the Environmental impact assessment report were not discussed. At the public discussions, held in the municipalities of Bolyarovo, Straldzha, Sungurlare, Targovishte, Antonovo, Popovo, Strazhitsa, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Polski Trambesh, Lovech, Ugarchin, Pordim, Letnitsa, Knezha, Pleven, Dolna Mitropolia, Pavlikeni, Levski, Iskar, Dolni Dabnik, Knezha, Mizia, were discussed issues regarding the realization of the investment proposal, no objections were made. In Sungurlare municipality there was submitted written request regarding the terms for implementation of the construction, hiring of local workers and the opportunities for joining to the gas pipeline. In Pordim municipality was submitted a written statement regarding the unemployment in the region and the opportunities for ensuring employment during the gas pipeline construction.

Answers are given to the issues, to the written question and to the written statement, raised/submitted during the public discussions and opinion was expressed by the



representatives of the team of experts, who have developed the EIA report and the AA report. Opinion was also stated by the Contracting party.

As a result of the public discussion no written proposals, recommendations or objections were submitted before, during or after the meetings for the public discussion.

10. The Supreme Environmental Expert Council with its decision No I-2/2013 dated 04.04.2013 has propose to be approved the realization of the investment proposal

and upon the following conditions:

I. As regards the stage of design:

1. It ought to be developed an Environment and Social Management and Monitoring Plan, which to comprise all requirements of the national legislation and the mitigation measures, necessary to be applied during the different project stages in order to be avoided and where not possible- to be limited the impact over the components and factors of the environment. In the mentioned plan ought also to be included the conditions and measures from the present decision. The plan should be coordinated with the Regional Inspections of Environment and Water (RIEW) – Burgas, RIEW-Stara Zagora, RIEW-Shumen, RIEW-Ruse, RIEW-Veliko Tarnovo, RIEW - Pleven and RIEW - Vratsa, for the gas pipeline section, located on the (respective) territory, appearing under the control of the respective RIEW. The plan should be also coordinated with the Executive Environment Agency. The above-mentioned plan should be submitted to the Ministry of environment and water for information and follow-up control.
2. In the course of development of the technical design should be held additional consultations with the water supply and sewerage companies and with the respective Basin Directorates for water management regarding up-to-date information for existence of sanitary-protection areas around the water sources, which up to the moment if issuance the decision had no such sanitary-protection areas.
3. The technical solutions in case of crossing obstacles upon usage of trenchless method, which solutions are specified by the designer, should be based on engineering-geological and hydro-geological researches in order to be guaranteed minimum risk during the implementation of the construction works. For the technology of the horizontal direct drilling should be ensured appropriate equipment for drilling, depending on the drilling parameters as well as it should be ensured equipment for localization the head of the (prospecting) drill.
4. The Danube river crossing should be realized through usage of the method of horizontal direction drilling (HDD), upon which it is not expected significant impact over the environment. No significant impact is expected also as far as the trans-boundary context is concerned.
5. The river crossing should be done during the low water level.
6. In (usage of) the methods for river crossing with pipe (in case of correspondence between the river capacity and the capacity of the pipe/pipes) and with deviation/diversion of the stream, it should be ensured free passage of the fish.
7. In case it appear necessary to be constructed strengthening elements for the gas pipeline pipes in river crossing, they should not be higher than 0, 15 m above the bottom surface. When the calculations entail bigger height of the dams, passes/corridors for the fish have to be constructed
8. For reducing the risk for damages to arise as a result of bank erosion of Danube River, an appropriate protection of the banks should be envisaged.
9. It has to be developed a project for technical and biological re-cultivation according to the requirements of *Regulation No 26 concerning the re-cultivation of disturbed terrains, improvement of poorly-productive lands, removal and utilization of the humus layer*. During development of the project for re-cultivation, for the regions of the above-ground installations



should be envisaged appropriate grassing, which to be compatible with the legislation in force in the country, concerning the safety operation of the facility.

10. For sections with gradient >10% it has to be ensured that the surface stream flow would not reach the gas pipeline route (within the servitude) and also it has to be ensured protection regarding all problematic places along the route, in which there is a risk for concentration of stream flows in cases of intensified raining and in case of snow melting as in the critical areas for surface water drainage should be designed and constructed engineering hydro-technical anti-erosion facilities (strengthening facilities, corrections of storm water stream, drainages and etc.)

11. It has to be developed a plan for hydro-test, which to consider the following: the water drawing/abstraction for the hydro-test should be made according to ecological minimum of the water body; if it is possible it should be envisaged one and the same water to be used many times for testing of separate sections of the gas pipeline; the discharge of the water from the hydro-test should be made at water receivers, located within the same catchment area; in case the water to be discharged would have modified composition, it has to be ensured the necessary purification of the discharge water; the realization of the hydro-test should be planned (to be held) at positive temperatures of the environment in order to be avoided crio-protectors to be added to the operating water. The plan for the hydro-test has to be coordinated with RIEW - East-Aegean region, RIEW – Danube region and RIEW – Black sea region and it has to be submitted to the Ministry of environment and water for information.

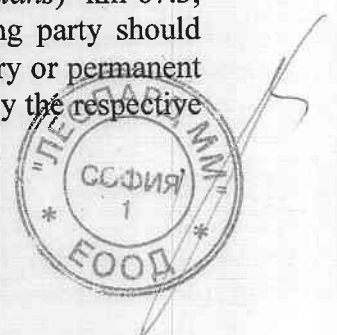
12. It has to be envisaged the crossing of sanitary-protection areas of water sources with shallow underground water from km 29, 260 to km 29, 420 (catchment area “Sharava”), from km 58,560 to km 58,670 (captive springs “Trusta” and “Vakuva”), from km 111,800 to km 900 (catchment area “Dvata chuchura”), from km 134,900 to km 135,280 (shaft “Mengishevo”) to be realized during relatively dry seasons.

13. It has to be envisaged for the warehouse sites and the constructions bases at Obitel village, Petko Karavelovo village, Dolni Lukovit village, Denitsa village, Letnitsa town and Nova Varbovka village to be located if possible at distances not less than 200m away from the residential areas of the settlements. In case the noise-protective area between the warehouse sites and the residential areas (200m) can't be adhered to, it has to be envisaged temporary screen-walls between the sites and the residential areas during their construction and operation.

14. In planning the construction the calendar schedule for realization of the construction-assembly works should be made compatible with the time restrictions and bans for realization of construction activities in accordance with the measures, provided for in item IV of the present Decision.

15. For the archaeological objects, for which it is envisaged rescue excavations to be made before starting the construction works, the area, which is envisaged for excavations out of the mapped strip, should be explored by a botanist. In case there are found habitats of species with conservation importance, the contracting party should assign to a scientific institution to develop and apply a plan for their temporary or permanent removal at appropriate habitat. The plan has to be coordinated and approved by the respective regional inspection of environment and water in advance.

16. In order to be preserved the specimens of the found habitats of species with conservation importance within the route *Achillea thracica* –km 80, Clustered Broom (*Chamaecytisus danubialis*) - km 418, *Fritillaria stribnyi* - km 35.1, water caltrop (*Trapa natans*)- km 67.3, representatives of Orchid family (*Orchidaceae*) – km 93.3, , the contracting party should assign to a scientific institution to develop and apply a plan for their temporary or permanent removal at appropriate habitat. The plan has to be coordinated and approved by the respective regional inspection of environment and water in advance.



17. For the following sections from the gas pipeline route: km 11- km 37, km 48- km 78, km 197- km 199.5 , km 203.5- km 225.5, km 232.5- km 255, km 256.5- km 267.5, km 270.5- km 285, km 288.5- km 290.5, km 290.4- km 309 and km 314- km 333,5 the distances between the axes of the newly-designed gas pipeline and the existing one should be the minimum one, according to Regulation No 6 dated 25.11.2004 concerning technical rules and provisions for design, construction and usage of the cites and facilities for transmission, storage, distribution and supply of natural gas, provided that such a condition appears realizable from a technical point of view, upon coordination with the owner of the existing gas-transmission network and in observing the results from the Quantitative risk assessment.
18. Right before starting the construction the time restrictions regarding "biodiversity" component have to be coordinated with a biologist in order to be optimized the schedules of work in relation to the specific meteorological conditions during the respective year.
19. The exact location of the temporary construction bases in agricultural lands or ruderal habitats has to be specified after consultation with biologists/ phytocoenologists has been made.
20. The sites for waste storage have to be in compliance with the requirements to the sites according to the regulations under art.13, Para 1 and the regulation under art.43, Para 1 from the Law on waste management.
21. The waste to be generated during the construction and operation of the project has to be classified according to the regulation under art.3 from the Law on waste management.
22. It has to be ensured separate collection and transportation of the excavated earth masses and waste from construction and destruction and it has not to be allowed their mixture.

II. During the construction:

1. The prohibitions, envisaged in art.118a of the Water Act should be observed, as well as the prohibitions and restrictions for activities in zone II and zone III of the sanitary-protection areas, pointed in Enclosure No 2 to the *Regulation No 3 /16.10.2000 regarding the conditions and the way for exploring, designing, approval and operation of the sanitary-protection areas around the water sources and facilities for drinking-domestic supply and around the water sources of mineral water, which are used for healing, prophylactic, drinking and hygienic needs*, namely: activities, resulting to indirect leading of dangerous substances to the earth surface and between the earth surface and the water level.
2. The requirements of the Water act have to be observed. The requirements are in relation to the permitting regime for water object usage during construction of a linear infrastructure, which crosses water objects, for water intake from water sources of water for the hydro-test and with other purposes, for discharge of the processed water from the hydro-test, from the horizontal directional drilling, from dewatering of trenches and sites. Competent authority for issuance of the above-mentioned permits appears the respective regional environment and water inspection.
3. It has to be ensured free passage of the fish fauna upon realization of measures against bottom and bank erosion (rocking, building of bottom shoots/ rapids, dams).
4. Within the areas for special water protection under art.119 a, Para 1, item 5 from the Water Act have to be made cutting of the natural riverside wooden vegetation only in the areas for the easements of the linear transport and energy infrastructure;
5. Upon usage of trenchless methods (in cases of crossing water objects as well as in cases of crossing sections with shallow underground water) should be used washing liquids without reagents, which contain dangerous chemical substances;
6. It has to be ensured an appropriate synchronization of explosions in the region of settlements, which appear at a distance less than 300 m away from the location of explosion;
7. In case of realization of accompanying activities to the construction, which activities are connected with emitting X-rays, it ought to be held measurement and to be determined the



distance, at which it shall be expected for the X-rays to be spread. In case of necessity it should be envisaged usage of protective lead shields or other appropriate measures in order not to be allowed radiation of the population and the workers, exceeding the limits;

8. The waste, generated during the construction, should be given to entities on the grounds of written contracts. These entities should have the respective document under art. 35 from the law on waste management;

9. It has to be ensured separate collection and transportation of the excavated earth masses and waste from construction and destruction and it has not to be allowed their mixture. The storage of the construction waste ought to be done only at separate sites;

10. The routes for transportation of the waste from construction to the respective installation/facility for their treatment have to be coordinated with the mayor of the respective municipality.

III. During the operation and upon decommissioning:

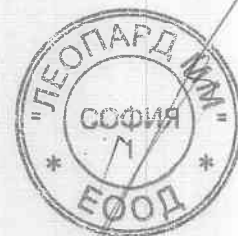
1. Organization has to be established and control has to be made for collection, storage and treatment of generated waste in observing the requirements of the legislation on waste management;

2. In case of repair activities ought to be made controlled gas releases in observing the climatic conditions of the environment;

3. The grass cover within the servitude of the gas pipeline in forest territories has to be kept in a good condition during operation. The same concerns the grass cover (belonging to)the permanent facilities of the gas pipeline – this has to be made through partial sowing at the stripped parts and improvement of the condition of the grass via maintenance of appropriate nutritional status of the soil upon usage of balanced organic-mineral fertilization except for the sections with identified natural habitats.

IV. Measures under article 96, paragraph 1, point 6 from Environment Protection Act

№	Measure	Period /phase of implementation/	Result
1.	The parking places for construction mechanization, places for refuel and maintenance of the machinery to be situated out of the construction sites for river crossing, within the construction strip.	Design, construction	Decrease of the negative impacts on the river flow
2.	Providing protection against erosion of the river bed in the point of water discharge or in case of water pumping by rocking of the river bottom or by another suitable method.	Design, construction	Saving the geomorphological structure of the river bed and the hydrological parameters of the stream



3.	The drilling suspension used in the case of HDD technology (mixture of water and bentonite - natural water soluble clay) to be stored in a pit. Drilling wastes can't be directly deposited in the river. After the completion of construction works, the suspension to be dried up and transported to a waste yard. Drilling works to be performed out of cold periods aiming at avoidance of supplements usage.	Design, construction	Avoidance of water and soil pollution with bentonite fractions
4.	Before the beginning of the construction of the separate sections, the route has to be inspected by an expert-ecologist from the scientific institution that has concluded a contract. In case of ascertained considerable species, a plan for their removal in a suitable habitat, coordinated with RIEW, has to be applied.	Construction	Protection of animal species along the gas pipeline route
5.	Daily inspection by an expert – ecologist for animals fallen in the trench. In case of a wild animal found injured or in an evidently helpless condition the respective RIEW has to be informed.	Construction	Protection of animal species along the gas pipeline route
6.	In sections with stocks of Ground Squirrel construction activities have to be abstained during the reproduction period (April - July) – for the stock of the species in section km 77, 8-78, 1. Construction works are allowed to start within the period August – September, before the beginning of the period of hibernation (November - April) in the following sections: km 77,8-78,1, 251,9-252,7, 385-386, 420,4-421,2. The construction activities must not be interrupted for more than five days during the period September – October.	Construction	Protection of <i>Spermophilus citellus</i>
7.	In the habitats suitable for Roach's Mouse-tailed Dormouse (open areas, without large cultivated areas): km 0-12, km 14-15, km 18-19, km 23-25, km 30-33, km 53-54: - The construction works have to be implemented out of the reproduction period of the species (from May to August). - The construction period within the listed important habitats for the species along the route is as follows: start of the construction works – September, completion of the construction works – till the end of April, as clearance of the construction strip, its fencing and excavation of the trench have to	Construction	Protection of <i>Myomimus roachi</i>



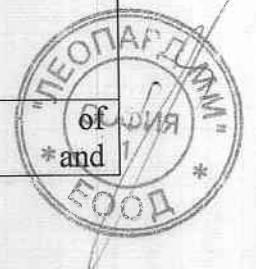
	be performed before the beginning of November. The construction activities must not be interrupted for more than five days during the period September – October aiming at avoidance of possible return of individuals within the construction strip and their wintering there.		
8.	In the habitats suitable for Gray Dwarf Hamster (open areas, without large cultivated areas): km 0-12, km 14-15, km 18-19, km 23-25, km 30-33, km 53-54: - The construction works have to be implemented out of the reproduction period of the species (from May to August). - The construction period within the listed important habitats for the species along the route is as follows: start of the construction works – September, completion of the construction works – till the end of April, as clearance of the construction strip, its fencing and excavation of the trench have to be performed before the beginning of November. The construction activities must not be interrupted for more than five days during the period September – October aiming at avoidance of possible return of individuals within the construction strip and their wintering there.	Construction	Protection of <i>Cricetulus migratorius</i>
9.	Construction works and clearance of the strip cannot be performed during the most active reproduction period of European otter (April - August) – applicable for Cherni Lom River and Chernelka River, where in proximity of the crossing point potentially suitable habitats are found out.	Construction	Protection of <i>Lutra lutra</i>
10.	Clearance and fencing of the construction strip have to be implemented after the reproduction period of the European pine marten (from April to July). In case of interruption of the work during winter (due to the specificity of the conditions in Kotlenska Mountain) before the beginning of activities during the next year, inspection has to be performed by an expert – teriologist. The construction activities must not be interrupted for more than five days during the period March – April. This measure to be applied in the section from Kotlenska Mountain (km 110-124) where species presence is ascertained.	Construction	Protection of <i>Martes martes</i>
11.	For the territories covered with broad-leaves	Construction	Avoidance * of *



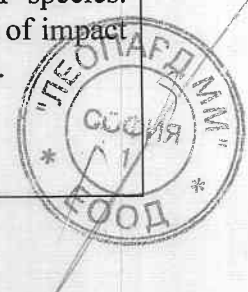
	mixed forests (km 105-125, km 235-235,6, km 237,8-238,3, km 284-285, km 338-338,3, km 380,9-381,2), the beginning of the felling, as well as the activities on clearing of the security area during the operation phase have to be planned in the period 1 August – 1 November. The construction activities must not be interrupted for more than five days during the period August – October aiming at avoidance of possible return of bats in the region in the immediate proximity of the construction strip and their wintering there.		anxiety during bats wintering and reproduction, avoidance of loss of individuals during wintering.
12.	In forest habitats, on the basis of performed researches and counting of old/hollow trees along the route in the region of the construction strip, houses for bats have to be placed. Their number in each particular section is: km 105-125-2400 houses for bats, km 235-235,6-100 bb, km 237.8-238.3 - 60 bb; km 284-285-120 bb; km 338-338,3 - 40 bb; km380.9-381,2 - 40 bb.	Construction	Restoration of the number of destroyed shelters will stimulate the diversity and number of the local bat populations.
13.	If abandoned buildings used by bats for shelters are destroyed during the construction, then shelters of “bunker” type have to be built.	Construction	Restoration of the number of destroyed shelters will stimulate the diversity and number of the local bat populations.
14.	The activities related to gas pipeline construction in herpetologically important sections (23,4 - 24,3; 30 - 31,5; 33 - 35,5; 79 - 82; 92,5 -95,5; 102 - 104; 106,2 - 107,5; 109,8 - 111,8; 114- 125; 208,6 - 209,3; 284 - 285) during the period of hibernation (November - April) to be allowed in case that in the period September – October a preliminary study is carried out by a qualified herpetologist within the construction strip, with the purpose of collecting and taking amphibians out at a safety distance and after that the construction strip will be fenced. Fences have to be solid, without holes and with height of 0, 5 m from the bottom. After the completion of the return filling up of the trenches in the respective sections, the fences have to be removed.	Construction	Avoidance of amphibians' mortality during wintering, avoidance of amphibians getting in the construction strip and reduction of the risk from mortality.
15.	Bringing back the biggest cut off trees or rocks along the border of the restored construction strip in broad-leaved forests to be implemented without disturbing the	Construction	Decrease fragmentation, creation of suitable shelters



	normal operation of the gas pipeline in the following sections: Km 4,0-4,2, km 23,4-24,3; km 29,0-29,6, km 30-31,5; km 33-35,5; km 78,9-82; km 92,5-95,5; km 100,7-101,3, km 101,8-104; km 103,3-104,8, km 106,2-107,5; km 109,8-111,8; km 112,0-125; km 163,1-164,4, km 208,6-210,1; km 218,3-219,1, km 235,0-236,7, km 284-285. The particular quantity of the trees brought back has to be determined by an expert herpetologist for each sensitive section;		amphibians and reptiles and creation of conditions for increase of the nutritious basis. Creation of ecological refugii and prerequisites for increase of the nutritious resources.
16.	Trees with nests for rapacious birds cannot be affected – before the beginning of the felling the famous places to be visited by ornithologists.	Construction	Protection of irreplaceable places for nesting of the species rapacious birds.
17.	The activities for construction of the gas pipeline have to be performed out of the reproduction period of rapacious birds (March - July) in the sections, at radius of 500 m around the ascertained nests in proximity of the route.	Construction	Protection of rapacious birds. Reduction of the impact on little or young individuals.
18.	The seasonal restrictions for construction works related to river crossings to be kept during the period of fish reproduction migrations. The advisable period for construction in rivers is August – April.	Construction	Decrease of individuals' mortality (especially bottom roe and newly hatched little fish).
19.	For BG0000219 "Dervenski vazvishenia 2": The construction base to be situated out of the boundaries of the natural habitats subject to protection in the zone. The construction works in the sections from km 0 to km 12, from km 14 to km 15, from km 18 to km 19, to be performed out of the reproduction period of Roach's Mouse-tailed Dormouse (<i>Myomimus roachi</i>) from May to August. Clearance of the construction strip, its fencing and excavation of the trench has to be performed before the beginning of November. The construction activities must not be interrupted for more than five days during the period September – October aiming at avoidance of possible return of individuals within the construction strip and their wintering there.	Construction	Avoidance of damage and transformations of natural habitats and habitats of species. Reduction of impact on species.
20.	For BG0000198 "Sredetska reka": Preparation of the construction site and	Construction	Avoidance damage



	<p>construction activities at Parakioiska River crossing, as well as water taking and discharge for hydrostatic examination to be performed during the period July – February in order to avoid damage of eggs and larvae of fish and amphibians, subject to protection in the zone during the reproduction period, avoidance of fragmentation of amphibians' habitats during the reproduction period.</p>		<p>transformations of natural habitats and habitats of species. Reduction of impact on species.</p>
21.	<p>For BG0000240 "Studenets": In the section of Chernelka River crossing at km 330.95 of the gas pipeline, construction works have to be implemented out of the reproduction period of amphibians, European otter and the preserved fish from March to August. Grass habitat 6210 "<i>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco - Brometalia)</i>" will be damaged when crossing the gas pipeline at km 349, 0 to km 349, 3. It must not be re-cultivated with commercial grassy composites, but has to be left to the natural succession processes, as in case of danger from erosion bio-soluble mat has to be used.</p>	Construction	<p>Avoidance of damage and transformations of natural habitats and habitats of species. Reduction of impact on species.</p>
22.	<p>For BG0000240 "Reka Vit": Construction in the section of Bara River crossing at km 359.31 of the route to be implemented out of the reproduction period of amphibians (March to May). The construction strip in the section of crossing of grass habitat 6210 "<i>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco - Brometalia)</i>" at km 359, 17 to km 359.31 must not be re-cultivated with commercial grassy composites. The habitat has to be left to self-restoration, as in case of necessity bio-soluble mat has to be used as prevention from erosion.</p>	Construction	<p>Avoidance of damage and transformations of natural habitats and habitats of species. Reduction of impact on species.</p>
23.	<p>For BG0000613 "Reka Iskar": During the determination of the location of the construction base in the zone, consultation with a biologist has to be envisaged, with the purpose to situate it beyond the boundaries of natural habitats, subject to protection in the zone. Construction in the section of Iskar River crossing has to be implemented out of the reproduction period March – July of fish</p>	Construction	<p>Avoidance of damage and transformations of natural habitats and habitats of species. Reduction of impact on species.</p>



<p>and amphibians and out of the period for breeding little mammals.</p> <p>Trees felling within the zone to be implemented from the beginning of August till the end of October. The activities must not be interrupted in the period September – October aiming at avoiding occupation of shelters for wintering by <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> and avoiding disturbance during this period of the species' lifecycle.</p> <p>10 “small house” for bats have to be placed on trees in the section 382, 7-383, 1 km, aiming at establishing shelters for bats.</p> <p>The construction strip in the section from km 380,638 and km 380,843, where grass habitat 6250* “<i>Pannonic loess steppic grasslands</i>” must not be re-cultivated with commercial grassy composites. The habitat has to be left to self-restoration, as in case of necessity bio-soluble mat has to be used as prevention from erosion</p>		
<p>24. For BG0000614 “Reka Ogosta”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction activities in the section from km 421.3 to km 421.8 must not be implemented during the reproduction period of amphibians from March to May. - The construction strip in the section from km 417, 93 to km 418, 23 from the gas pipeline route, where grass habitat 6210 “<i>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco - Brometalia)</i>” is crossed, must not be re-cultivated with commercial grassy composites. The habitat has to be left to self-restoration, as in case of necessity bio-soluble mat has to be used as prevention from erosion. 	Construction	Avoidance of damage and transformations of natural habitats and habitats of species. Reduction of impact on species.
<p>25. For BG0000240 “Studenets”:</p> <p>Clearance of the construction strip in the sections of crossing of the zone has to start out of the reproduction period from March to July. Construction must not be interrupted during the period February – May aiming at avoidance of possible nesting during the reproduction period in habitats affected by the construction.</p> <p>Depending on the habitat, the impacts listed in p. B, will be mitigated for the species <i>Circus cyaneus</i>, <i>Anthus campestris</i>, <i>Buteo rufinus</i>, <i>Falco columbarius</i>, <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>, <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> in open</p>	Construction	Avoidance of damage, transformation and fragmentation of habitats of birds' species. Reduction and limitation of impact on birds.



<p>habitats, for the species <i>Anthus campestris</i>, <i>Lanius minor</i>, <i>L.collurio</i>, <i>Lullula arborea</i>, <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>, <i>Sylvia nisoria</i> in shrub habitats and for <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>, <i>Buteo rufinus</i>, <i>Falco columbarius</i>, <i>F. vespertinus</i>, <i>Accipiter brevipes</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>, <i>Milvus migrans</i>, <i>Lanius minor</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Pernis apivorus</i>, <i>Picus canus</i>, <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>, <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>, <i>Dryocopus martius</i>, <i>Lullula arborea</i>, <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> in forest habitats.</p> <p>26. For BG0002066 “Zapadna Strandzha”: The activities for gas pipeline construction, including clearance of the construction strip in the section from km 0-5 and from km 21-28 to start after the beginning of August and during the period February - March to be performed without interruption. Depending on the habitat, the impacts listed will be mitigated for the species <i>Anthus campestris</i>, <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>, <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>, <i>Buteo rufinus</i>, <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>, <i>Circus pygargus</i>, <i>Melanocorypxa calandra</i>, <i>Anthus campestris</i>, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>, <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>, <i>Coracias garrulus</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>, <i>Milvus migrans</i>, <i>Accipiter brevipes</i>, <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Hieraaetu pennatus</i>, <i>Pernis apivorus</i>, <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>, <i>Buteo rufinus</i>, <i>Aquila heliaka</i>, <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>, <i>Circus macrourus</i>, <i>Circus pygargus</i>, <i>Melanocorypxa calandra</i>, <i>Lanius collurio</i>, <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>, <i>Lanius minor</i>, <i>Falco cherrug</i>, preferring open habitats, for <i>Anthus campestris</i>, <i>Lanius collurio</i>, <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>, <i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>, <i>Lanius minor</i>, <i>Lanius nubicus</i>, <i>Lullula arborea</i>, inhabiting shrub habitats and adherent to forest habitats <i>Aquila chysaetos</i>, <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>, <i>Coracias garrulus</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>, <i>Milvus migrans</i>, <i>Accipiter brevipes</i>, <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>, <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>, <i>Dryocopus martius</i>, <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>, <i>Pernis apivorus</i>, <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>, <i>Buteo rufinus</i>, <i>Aquila heliaca</i>, <i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>, <i>Lanius minor</i>, <i>Lanius nubicus</i>, <i>Lullula arborea</i>.</p>	<p>Construction</p>	<p>Avoidance of damage, transformation and fragmentation of habitats of birds' species. Reduction and limitation of impact on birds.</p>



<p>Construction in the section from km 5 to km 21 must not be implemented during the reproduction period of Eastern Imperial Eagle (March – July), because the route passes far enough, but through three kilometers long buffer zone there are three nests of these species.</p> <p>Clearance of the servitude strip during the operation of the gas pipeline has to be performed out of the period before the beginning of March till the middle of July, the reproduction period of birds, subject to protection, aiming at avoidance of anxiety, direct (in shrub habitats of the species <i>Anthus campestris</i>, <i>Lanius collurio</i>, <i>Sylvia nisoria</i>, <i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>, <i>Lanius minor</i>, <i>Lanius nubicus</i>, <i>Lullula arborea</i>) and indirect (in shrub and forest habitats for the species <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>, <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>, <i>Coracias garrulus</i>, <i>Aquila pomarina</i>, <i>Ciconia nigra</i>, <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>, <i>Milvus migrans</i>, <i>Accipiter brevipes</i>, <i>Bubo bubo</i>, <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>, <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>, <i>Dryocopus martius</i>, <i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>, <i>Pernis apivorus</i>, <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>, <i>Buteo rufinus</i>, <i>Aquila heliaca</i>, <i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>, <i>Lanius minor</i>, <i>Lanius nubicus</i>, <i>Lullula arborea</i>) loss of individuals.</p>		
<p>27. For B0002029 “Kotlenska planina”: During the determination of the location of the construction base, envisaged within the boundaries of the zone, consultation with a biologist/ornithologist has to be carried out, with the purpose it to be situated beyond the boundaries of nest habitats of birds, subject to protection in the zone.</p> <p>The activities of gas pipeline construction have to start after August and must not be interrupted during the period February – May for the sections with natural open habitats from km 126 to km 126,28, from km 131,85 to km 132,17, from km 133,53 to km 134,48, from km 134,7 to km 134,9, from km 135,105 to km 135,17 in bush habitats between km 125 and 125,49, km 124,57 and 124,67 and km 123,64 and 124,4, as well as in forest habitats from km 124,57 to km 124,65. Preliminary clearance of the construction strip has to be envisaged after August, aiming at avoidance of nesting</p>	<p>Construction</p>	<p>Avoidance of damage, transformation and fragmentation of habitats of birds' species. Reduction and limitation of impact on birds.</p>



during the reproduction period in the habitats affected by the construction and respectively anxiety and loss of individuals. Depending on the habitat, the listed impacts in open habitats will be mitigated: avoidance of loss of individuals from the species *Buteo rufinus* and *Caprimulgus europaeus*. The res listed impacts will be mitigated for *Aegypius monachus*, *Aquilachrysaetus*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Bubo bubo*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus macrourus*, *Circus pygargus*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Falco cherrug*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Milvus migrans*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Sylvia nisoria*, *Lullula arborea*, *Falco naumani*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Accipiter brevipes*, *Bonasa bonasia*, *Ficedula semitorquata*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Buteo rufinus* and *Caprimulgus europaeus* in open habitats, in shrub habitats – *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Lanius collurio*, *Sylvia nisoria*, *Lullula arborea* and in forest habitats *Aquila heliaca*, *Aquila chrysaetus*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Aegypius monachus*, *Accipiter brevipes*, *Bonasa bonasia*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Bubo bubo*, *Caprimulgus europaeus*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Dendrocopos medius*, *Dendrocopos syriacus*, *Dryocopus martius*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Ficedula parva*, *Ficedula semitorquata*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Lanius collurio*, *Lanius minor*, *Lullula arborea*, *Milvus migrans*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Picus canus*, *Sylvia nisoria*, *Emberiza hortulana*. Clearance of the servitude strip during the operation of the gas pipeline has to be performed out of the reproduction period of birds between the beginning of March till the middle of July, that will minimize the impacts on bush habitats like the habitats of *Lanius minor*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Lanius collurio*, *Sylvia nisoria*, *Lullula arborea* and in forest habitats for *Aquila heliacal*, *Aquila chrysaetus*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Aegypius monachus*, *Accipiter brevipes*, *Bonasa bonasia*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Bubo bubo*,



	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus, Ciconia nigra, Circaetus gallicus, Coracias garrulus, Dendrocopos medius, Dendrocopos syriacus, Dryocopus martius, Falco vespertinus, Ficedula parva, Ficedula semitorquata, Hieraaetus pennatus, Lanius collurio, Lanius minor, Lullula arborea, Milvus migrans, Pernis apivorus, Picus canus, Sylvia nisoria, Emberiza hortulana.</i>		
28.	Around the construction strip, within the boundaries of the protected zones, fences with height of at least 0, 5 m to be placed tightly to the earth surface and after the completion of the back filling up of the trenches in the respective section to be removed.	Construction	Limitation of animals' mortality (amphibians, little mammals, young birds)
29.	Toxic substances have to be stored in closed rooms, in their original pickings.	Construction	Avoidance of pollution with toxic substances
30.	In case of unfavorable climate conditions, presence of fog (temperature inversion) and strong wind (directed to settlements with speed of over 5-6 m/s), the construction works related to release of gas and dust emissions have to be stopped.	Construction	Limitation of distribution of gas and dust emissions generated in the atmosphere
31.	<p>1. A plan has to be elaborated (as a part of Management and Monitoring Plan for the environment and social environment). It envisages particular suitable measures, incl. organizational and technical for implementation of the requirements of Article 70 from <i>Regulation N: 1 dated from 27.06.2005 for limits for admissible emission of harmful substances (polluters) released in the atmosphere from sites and activities with immovable sources of emissions.</i></p> <p>2. Before the beginning of the construction the plan has to be coordinated with RIEW-Burgas, RIEW- Stara Zagora, RIEW-Shumen, RIEW- Ruse, RIEW- Veliko Tarnovo, RIEW- Pleven and RIEW-Vratsa. The coordinated plan has to be submitted to MoEW.</p> <p>3. Before the beginning of the construction the Investor has to inform in written form each RIEW about the envisaged date for start of the construction for each section of the gas pipeline situated on the territory, controlled by the respective RIEW.</p>	Before the beginning of the construction and during the construction	Control on air pollutions. Keeping people's health



	4. The measures included in the coordinated plan have to be implemented during the construction.		
32.	The envisaged vehicles have to respond to EURO V standards for heavy-freight trucks and to EURO 5 for cars.	Construction	Limitation of gas emissions. Keeping people's health
33.	The traffic, serving the construction, through settlements has to be limited. Operation of heavy-freight truck along the Republic Road Network for supply of pipes and shape parts has to be planned for the hours of the day and night with lower conventional traffic.	Construction	Limitation of gas and dust emissions from the construction traffic. Keeping people's health
34.	Temporary screens – walls between the construction strip and Bratovo Village (km 162) and Seyachi Quarter in the town of Popovo (km 185) have to be planned in order to reduce the level of the noise reaching residential areas.	Construction	Non- exceeding the limit values of noise in residential areas. Keeping people's health
35.	One month after the re-cultivation completion its quality has to be monitored and controlled. In case of erosion processes before plants growing up and in sensitive areas, second biological re-cultivation of the construction strip has to be carried out.	Construction	Limitation of soil erosion along the gas pipeline route
36.	The humus and earth masses excavate during the construction have to be separately disposed and to be used subsequently for re-cultivation of destroyed terrains.	Construction	Decreasing the loss of valuable soils, keeping soil fertility
37.	Dry trees, branches, construction and other wastes, fallen in the river beds at the points of gas pipeline crossing have to be cleared up.	Construction	Prevention against erosion processes on the river bank, prevention against floods

The present decision concerns only the investment proposal, which has been subject of the EIA made under the environmental protection Act. In case of modification or extension of this investment proposal the contracting authority should in due course inform the Ministry of environment and water at the earliest possible stage.

On the grounds of Art.99, Para 8 from the environmental protection Act the EIA decision shall lose its validity if within five years as of the date it has been issued the realization of the investment proposal has not started.

In case of change of the contracting authority, the new contracting authority must on the grounds of art.99, Para 7 from the environmental protection Act inform the Ministry of environment and water.



In case it has been ascertained non-implementation of the conditions and measures, given in the EIA decision, the guilty individuals/entities shall be liable under art.166, Para 2 from the environmental protection Act.

The interested parties may appeal the decision under the Administrative-procedure Code within 14 (fourteen) days as from its announcement.

On the grounds of art.60, Para 1 from the Administrative-procedure Code, the contracting authority "Nabucco Gas Pipeline Bulgaria" EOOD, Sofia with a letter inc. No OBOC-274/29.03.2013, has requested by the Minister of environment and water to be allowed immediate execution of the EIA decision for investment proposal "Construction of the section of Nabucco gas pipeline on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria".

After I have considered the request of the company, which motivated the request with protection of its important interests and to a greater extent it has motivated the request with protection of particular important state and public interest, taking into consideration the information, sent to the Ministry of environment and water and containing into the above-mentioned letter, I do find the request to be motivated with the following prerequisites:

On 14th of July 2009 with Decision No 616, issued by the Council of Ministers, the Bulgarian section of Nabucco gas pipeline has been announced for a project of national importance and on 06th of April 2012 the Bulgarian section of Nabucco gas pipeline has been announced for a national project with decision No 283, issued by the Council of Ministers.

Republic of Bulgaria appears associate in the project company "Nabucco Gas Pipeline International" GmbH through "Bulgarian energy holding" EAD. "Bulgarian energy holding" EAD is 100% owned by the state, which definitely implies existence of state interest from the successful project realization.

The existence of particular important state interest from participation of Republic of Bulgaria in "Nabucco" project is also motivated with signing and ratifying of two international agreements- the Agreement between the countries-participants in the project-Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Turkey, Romania, Hungary and Republic of Austria, for cooperation on the field of natural gas transportation through "Nabucco" gas-transportation system (prom. In State Gazette issue 12/2010) and the project support agreement, signed between Republic of Bulgaria, Nabucco Gas Pipeline International" GmbH and Nabucco Gas Pipeline Bulgaria" EOOD (prom. In State Gazette issue 42/2012). According to these agreements the Bulgarian state has committed to support the due project realization in order to be reached its main purpose- the energy security of the countries-participants in it and to be reached energy security in the European Union through diversification of the sources of supply including here in the field of supplies. Allowance of the immediate execution shall ensure minimize the delay in reaching this purpose, which could have had consequences of national and international nature.

Considering the above-stated and finding the request from the Contracting party for being motivated as well as finding that the prerequisites under art. 60, para 1 from the Administrative-procedure Code exist,

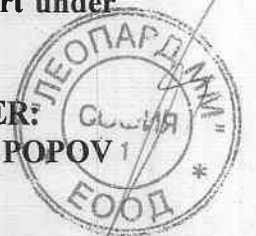
I DO ORDER:

I allow immediate execution of the present decision in order to be ensured the protection of particular important state and public interest.

The present order is subject of appeal before the Supreme administrative court under the Administrative-procedure Code within three days of its announcement.

Date: 15.04.2013

**MINISTER:
YULIAN POPOV**



Illegible signature

Follows a round stamp with inscription: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, Ministry of environment and water.

The undersigned Ivaylo Karadjov herewith certify the fidelity of the translation I have made from Bulgarian language into English language of the following document: decision. The translation comprises 28 pages.

Translator:

