

**Format of Notification under Section 3
Of Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context (“The Convention”)**

Table 1

**NOTIFICATION TO AN AFFECTED PARTY OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY
UNDER ARTICLE 3 OF THE CONVENTION**

1. INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY	
(i) Information on the nature of the proposed activity	
Type of activity proposed	Construction and operation of large-diameter gas pipeline
Is the proposed activity listed in Appendix I to the Convention?	YES, point 8 of Appendix I
Scope of proposed activity (e.g. main activity and any/all peripheral activities requiring assessment)	Construction and operation of a land section of the route of a gas transmission pipeline, known as South Stream, for transit transportation of gas from Russia to the European market.
Scale of proposed activity (e.g. size, production capacity, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned length of the land part subject of the proposed activity - 538 km; • Work pressure - 9,8 Mpa; • Planned production capacity - 63 billion m3 per annum; • Pipelines diameter - DN1400 /Du (“Ду”) = 1400 (56”)/; • Type of the pipelines – steel pipelines, L485M (X70M), in accordance with ISO 3183 classification;
Description of proposed activity (e.g. technology used)	The main technological process is related to transportation of natural gas
Description of purpose of proposed activity	Performance of transit gas transmission from Russia across the Black Sea to the central parts of the European Union aimed at increasing of the energy safety of the European countries – users of natural gas from Russia.

<p>Rationale for proposed activity (e.g. socio-economic, physical geographic basis)</p>	<p>South Stream gas transmission pipeline is a completely new route for transit transmission of natural gas. Its realization will lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diversification of the existing routes for import and transmission of natural gas; • increase of the capacity for transmission of natural gas to third countries through creation of the necessary technical and economic conditions on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria; • attaining guarantees for energy security and independence, and avoidance or restriction of the negative consequences from possible interruptions of natural gas supply to the Republic of Bulgaria and third countries in the region and Europe; • achievement of better economic stability for Bulgaria and the entire region; • modernization of the gas infrastructure and accelerated economic growth for EU member states and their neighbors; • Significant increase of the power supply safety on the European continent through compliance with the most up-to-date environmental and technology requirements in the course of its construction.
<p>Additional information/comments</p>	
<p>(ii) Information on the spatial and temporal boundaries of the proposed activity</p>	
<p>Location</p>	<p>The Republic of Bulgaria</p>
<p>Description of the location (e.g. physical-geographic, socio-economic characteristics)</p>	<p>The land section of the South Stream gas transmission pipeline, subject matter of the proposed activity, is situated entirely on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria (referred to as the “Black Sea – Serbia“ Route). Route’s technological borders are:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) starting point situated south of Galata residential area, in Pasha Dere locality, Varna Municipality, Varna Region, Bulgaria, in proximity to the Chernomorets tourist hut, representing the first welded seam before the fencing of the entry safety valve of the receiving terminal for the gas on the</p>

	<p>Black Sea shore;</p> <p>b) ending point situated at the crossing of the state border between Bulgaria and the Republic of Serbia, south of Vrashka Chuka (Zajecar) border control point.</p> <p>The distance between the pipeline and the Danube River in the different sections is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section Varna – Provadia and parallel to the existing pipeline, from km 0+000 to km 59+000 – average distance 120 km; • Section Provadia – Vetrino and parallel to the existing transit pipeline to Turkey, from km 59+000 to km 70+000 – average distance 115 km; • Section Vetrino – Mirovci, from km 70+000 to km 100+000; • Section Mirovci – Popovo and parallel to the national gas-transportation network, from km 100+000 to km 184+000 – average distance 70 km; • Section Popovo – Nikolaevo, from km 184+000 to km 320+000 – average distance 40 km; • Section Nikolaevo – Selanovci, from km 320+000 to km 395+000 – average distance 30 km, for the area of Selanovci at km 391+500 the distance is 8.6 km; • Section Selanovci – Kula from km 395+000 to km 525+000 – average distance 15 km, for the area of the village Izvor at km 498+000 the distance is 7.5 km; • Section Kula – Border, from km 525+000 to km 538+000 – average distance 45 km.
<p>Rationale for location of proposed activity (e.g. socio-economic, physical-geographic basis)</p>	<p>The route is situated north of the Balkan in the middle of the Danube Plane. Relief is even, free of sharp differences in height.</p> <p>Realization of the proposed activity will have significant political and economic importance for the entire region, mainly by giving it greater sustainability.</p> <p>Realization of the proposed activity will provide an opportunity for more intensive development of gasification and will create a number of advantages for the people in the regions crossed by the gas</p>

	pipeline, such as new jobs, improvement of the investment climate, increase of energy efficiency better general welfare, facilitation of introduction of innovations, etc.
Time-frame for proposed activity (e.g. start and duration of construction and operation)	Start of construction works - August 2013; Duration of the first stage of the construction works - by October 2015; Commissioning – December 2015
Maps and other pictorial documents connected with the information on the proposed activity	A map of the main route of the land section of the pipeline subject matter of the proposed activity is enclosed to this present notification. The elaboration of detailed maps is subject matter of the EIA Report which will be prepared by the appointed experts.
Additional information/comments	
(iii) Information on expected environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures	
Scope of assessment(e.g. consideration of: cumulative impacts,evaluation of alternatives, sustainable development issues, impact of peripheral activities, etc.)	Upon preparation of the EIA Report the impact on the separate environmental components as well as the factors leading to pollution or damages of the environment will be taken into consideration in respect to the main route of the gas pipeline and the proposed alternatives. Cumulative impacts on the environment resulting from the realization of the gas pipeline and the presence of other accomplished or permitted investment proposals within the frame of the pipeline route will also be taken into consideration.
Expected environmental impacts of proposed Activity (e.g. types, locations, magnitudes)	During the construction more significant impact is expected on the soils, the flora and the fauna as well as on the landscape. The impact of the proposed activity on the components of the environment during the operation of the gas pipeline is expected to be insignificant save for the impact on the soils.
Inputs (e.g. raw material, power sources, etc.)	During the construction of the gas pipeline the following raw materials and power sources will be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>earth</i> <p>At this stage no specific distribution of the land plots located within the route of the proposed activity can be made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>water</i> <p>During the construction of the gas pipeline water</p>

	<p>will be used for::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ preparation of concrete mixtures and other construction solutions; ✓ damping of the temporary roads and construction sites aiming at preventing of dust emissions in the atmosphere; ✓ hydraulic tests of the gas pipeline; ✓ Daily needs of the stuff. <p>The water quantity to be used during the construction will be insignificant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>energy sources</i> <p>Natural gas will be used as fuel for the compressor stations; fuels for the construction mechanization (mainly diesel) will be used as well. The electricity needed for welding works will be supplied mainly by diesel generators and for the main storages – by the electric grid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>mineral sources, inert materials, wood material</i> <p>The realization of the proposed activity is not connected with production or use of mineral or wood material. Inert materials will be used for the construction of the sites of the compressor stations, linear crane assemblies, entrance and exit terminals, gas pipeline route facilities for crossing of other infrastructure and water objects, earth fortifications and swaths. The mineral sources, inert materials and wood material will be supplied from the commodity market.</p>
<p>Outputs(e.g. amounts and types of: emissions into the atmosphere, discharges into the water system,solid waste)</p>	<p>Emissions into the atmosphere are expected during the construction caused by the construction works (dust) and the working engines of the construction mechanization. During the gas pipeline commissioning significant quantity of waste waters is expected. There will be construction waste most of which will be earth. Hazardous waste can be generated on the sites for service and maintenance of the construction machines. The construction process will be source of noise and vibrations within the construction site coming from the construction mechanization; it will be also source of noxious physical factors such as heat, light, electromagnetic and ionic radiation during the welding works of the pipeline. All activities upon which waste will be generated will be performed in compliance with the</p>

	<p>effective legislation which will lead to maximum reduce of the expected emissions. During the construction process no soil pollution is expected.</p>
<p>Transboundary impacts(e.g. types, locations, magnitudes)</p>	<p>Eventual transboundary impact on the environment can be expected during the construction of the gas pipeline as it is expected that such impact will be insignificant and of short duration. Such impact could take the form of insignificant emissions of dust in the atmosphere in result of the construction works; and emissions of natural gas. Such eventual impact could be located within quite limited areas in Romania and Serbia.</p> <p>During the operation of the gas pipeline no transboundary adverse impact on the environment of another country (or parts thereof) caused by the proposed activity is expected.</p>
<p>Proposed mitigation measures (e.g. if known, mitigation measures to prevent,eliminate, minimize, compensate for environmental effects)</p>	<p>Proposed mitigation measures to minimize the impact on the environment during the construction of the gas pipeline are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local narrowing of the construction corridor by mounting the line in a neighboring section and drawing it out in the narrowed corridor; • horizontal drilling under rivers and riversides aiming at avoiding the impact on the environment within and around main/tender streams; • sectional construction for avoiding the presence of constant open long-length excavation which cannot be crossed by wild animals; • seasonal works in some sections aiming at avoiding the nesting seasons and migrations; • providing of temporary shelters for the wild animals by the final restoration of the terrain; • special restoration of the soil and the flora; • Compensating planting along the corridor. <p>Development and proposal of specific measures to prevent, limit and minimize the impacts of the</p>

	<p>proposed activity on the environment during the construction of the gas pipeline by type of the impact and in regard to the separate environmental components (transboundary impact inclusive) is the subject matter of the EIA Report.</p> <p>No adverse impact on the environment is expected during the operation of the gas pipeline.</p>
Additional information/comments	
(iv) Proponent/developer	
Name, address, telephone and fax numbers	<p>South Stream Bulgaria AD 8 Tri Ushi Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria Tel: + 359 2 421 7248; +359 2 421 7251 Fax: +359 2 421 7257</p>
(v) EIA documentation	
Is the EIA documentation (e.g. EIA report or EIS) included in the notification?	Yes <u>No</u> Partially
If no/partial, description of additional documentation to be forwarded and (approximate) date(s) when documentation will be available	The time-frame of the duration of the consultations and the exchange of additional documentation between the parties is defined on a case-by-case basis. The prepared EIA Report will be provided to the affected parties and will be subject matter of public discussions with the participation of the affected parties. The EIA decision will be also provided to the affected parties.
Additional information/comments	
2. POINTS OF CONTACT	
(i) Points of contact for the possible affected Party or Parties	
<p>Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the EIA (refer to decision I/9, annex) - Name, address, telephone and fax numbers</p>	<p>1. Serbia:</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning 1 Omladinskih Brigada Str. 11070 Belgrade Tel: +381 11 31 32 572 Fax: +381 11 31 32 574</p> <p>2. Romania</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Forests 12, Blvd. Libertatii, Sector 5, Bucharest RO - 040129 Telephone: +40 21 316 7735 Fax: +40 21 316 0421</p>
List of affected Parties to which notification is being sent	Serbia, Romania
(ii) Points of contact for the Party of origin	

<p>Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the EIA (refer to decision I/9, annex) - Name, address, telephone and fax numbers</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment and Waters (MEW) 22 Maria Louisa Blvd. 1000 Sofia Telephone: +359 2 988 2577 Fax: +359 2 986 2533</p>
<p>Decision-making authority if different than authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the EIA - Name, address, telephone and fax numbers</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>3. INFORMATION ON THE EIA PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IS LOCATED</p>	
<p>(i) Information on the EIA process that will be applied to the proposed activity</p>	
<p>Time schedule</p>	<p>According to the Bulgarian law the general procedure of environmental impact assessment is carried out in the following sequence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notification to the competent authorities and the affected communities about the investment proposal; 2. Assessment by the competent authority (MEW) of the necessity for performance of EIA; 3. Consultations for determination of the scope, contents and the form of the EIA Report (by the developer); 4. Preparation of Terms of Reference for the scope and contents of the EIA Report (by the developer); 5. Preparation of the Report (by experts appointed by the developer); 6. Assessment of the quality of the EIA Report - by the MEW, within 30 days as from the submission of the EIA Report; 7. Public discussions on the EIA Report, with the affected communities inclusive – the date of the first meeting is scheduled not later than 60 days as of submission of such request by the developer; the statements of the communities shall be presented wither at the meeting set for the public discussion or be sent to MEW within 7 days after the public discussion has been carried out;

	<p>8. Passing of a resolution on EIA by the MEW – within 45 days after the public discussions have been carried out by taking into consideration of the results thereof; possibility for appeal of the EIA Resolution before the court within 14 days as from the date the affected parties have been notified about the resolution; entry into force of the resolution if no appeals have been submitted;</p> <p>9. Control by the MEW about the fulfillment of the conditions set out in the EIA Resolution;</p> <p>10. Actualization of the EIA Resolution in case of its expiry.</p> <p>At this stage all steps from p.1 to p.4 inclusive are fulfilled. The expected time-frame for elaboration of the EIA Report under point 5 is not later than 30 July 2013.</p>
Opportunities for the affected Party or Parties to be involved in the EIA process	YES
Opportunities for the affected Party or Parties to review and comment on the notification and the EIA documentation	YES
Nature and timing of the possible decision	
Process for approval of the proposed activity	<p>In case a significant adverse transboundary impact of the proposed activity is expected the affected party (as defined in the Convention) is given the opportunity to take part in the EIA Procedure. In such case after the developer notifies MEW about its investment proposal the EIA Procedure is carried out in the following way:</p> <p>1. The Minister of the Environment and Waters notifies the affected party or parties about his resolution and sets a term for response whether the affected party will take part in the procedure; attached to the notification will be a description of the investment proposal and available information (which does not represent a classified information under the Law on protection of classified information) about potential transboundary environmental impact as well as about the nature of the possible decision which will be taken by MEW;</p> <p>2. If the affected party responds that it intends to</p>

	<p>participate in the EIA Procedure, a notification to the public is arranged in regard to the application of the transboundary procedure;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="794 360 1477 562">3. Consultations about the procedure shall be carried out between the parties as the time-frame for the consultations shall be defined on a case-by-case basis; information about the main legislative requirement shall also be provided;<li data-bbox="794 595 1477 797">4. The scope of the information to be included in the EIA Report by the developer shall also be determined, especially in regard to the aspects of the transboundary impact and the measures to prevent and mitigate such impact;<li data-bbox="794 831 1477 1111">5. An EIA Report shall be prepared as the developer shall be obliged to present to the competent authority (MEW) an additional copy of the report, translation of the whole report or part thereof, if so agreed between the parties, as well as translation of the non-technical resume to the EIA Report;<li data-bbox="794 1144 1477 1379">6. An assessment of the quality of the EIA Report shall be carried out by the competent authority (MEW) as special attention shall be given to the transboundary impacts of the investment proposal and the measures for their mitigation and prevention;<li data-bbox="794 1413 1477 1816">7. The EIA Report (and its translation, if agreed) and the translation of the non-technical resume shall be sent to the competent authority in the affected party as an opportunity shall be given for carrying out of consultations about: (a) the potential transboundary impacts and the measures for their mitigation and prevention; (b) possible proposed alternatives of the investment proposal; and (c) other matters of mutual concern;<li data-bbox="794 1850 1477 1928">8. The documentation received from the carried consultations shall be provided to the developer;
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	<p>9. Public discussion on the EIA Report shall be carried out by giving an opportunity for a representative of the competent authority of the affected party and its public to take part in the discussion;</p> <p>10. The competent authority (MEW) shall pass a resolution about the EIA by taking into consideration the notes and suggestions made by the affected party participating in the EIA Procedure;</p> <p>11. The EIA Resolution shall be announced and notified to the affected Party;</p> <p>12. Control about the implementation of the EIA Resolution shall be carried out and, if so agreed between the parties, MEW shall notify the competent authority in the affected party about the control measures that have been taken and the findings that have been made.</p>
Additional information/comments	
<p>4. INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</p>	
Public participation procedures	<p>In case of positive assessment of the quality of the EI Report the developer shall arrange public discussions on the EIA Report jointly with the affected municipalities and districts defined by MEW or by officer appointed by it.</p> <p>The developer and the competent bodies shall ensure public access to the EIA Documentation for a period of 30 days before the start of the public discussions. For the purposes of the public discussions the developer shall submit a written application to the affected municipalities and districts along with an offer for the place, the date and time of the meeting/s for public discussions, and about the place where the documentation can be publicly accessed and statements be submitted. The date of the first meeting is scheduled not later than 60 days as of the date the application has been submitted by the developer.</p> <p>The representatives of the public shall present their statements in writing at the meeting for the public discussion or shall sent them to MEW in regard to the</p>

	<p>EIA Resolution not later than 7 days after the public discussions have been carried out.</p> <p>Within 7 days after the public discussions the developer shall present to MEW the results thereof along with the statements and the protocols for the discussions that have been carried out.</p>
Expected start and duration of public consultation	April 2013; expected duration of the public discussions – 50 days.
Additional information/comments	
5. DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE	
Date	
APPENDICES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SHORT SUMMARY of the investment proposal for construction and operation of a land section of the route of the South Stream Gas Transmission Pipeline prepared in English for the purposes of the notification to the potentially affected parties; 2. Map of the main route of the section of South Stream Gas pipeline subject matter of the proposed activity.