

Baltic Pipe gas pipeline location procedures have commenced

GAZ-SYSTEM applied to the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Shipping and the Maritime Offices in Szczecin and Słupsk for administrative decisions regarding the terms of laying and maintaining the offshore Baltic Pipe gas pipeline.

The documents submitted on January 24 and 25, 2018 pertain to 1 km wide survey corridors delineated for three alternative gas pipeline routes within the Polish maritime territory.

Under the said procedures, the route of the gas pipeline shall be agreed with a number of institutions, including competent Ministers: of Energy, Economy, Natural Environment, Fishery, Culture and National Heritage, Administration and National Defense. In addition, applications will be assessed by authorities of three communes (Rewal, Trzebiatów, Mielno), where the onshore section of the gas pipeline is planned.

The corridors indicated in the location permits will be subject to in-depth surveys including environmental, technological and social analyses. They will serve as a basis for selection of the final, optimum route of the gas pipeline and development of a construction design. Until surveys and analyses have been completed, all variants of the venture are recognized as equivalent.

Safety of natural environment as well as mitigation of the impact on other sea users are of pivotal importance in the implementation of such investment projects as Baltic Pipe. The procedures that have been instituted will provide for the determination whether the planned gas pipeline routes interfere with other methods of using the marine resources - already in the early design phase – declares Tomasz Stępień, CEO of GAZ-SYSTEM.

The location permits, when issued, do not mean yet the final approval of the investment project. In the following stages of the process, the investor will need to obtain a decision on environmental conditions, a location decision for gas pipeline corridor and a construction permit.

GAZ-SYSTEM is a strategic company for the Polish economy. It is responsible for the transmission of natural gas, manages the most important gas pipelines in Poland and owns the President Lech Kaczyński LNG Terminal in Świnoujście.

As part of the 2015-2025 investment programme, GAZ-SYSTEM is constructing over 2000 km of new gas pipelines in the western, southern and eastern parts of Poland. Over a dozen new gas pipelines are under construction within the North-South Gas Corridor and the compressor station in Kędzierzyn Koźle, as well as interconnections with Lithuania and Slovakia. Onshore gas pipelines are planned to connect the planned FSRU floating terminal in the Gulf of Gdansk with the national transmission system. The LNG Terminal in Świnoujście is also being extended, as a result of which the regasification capacity of this facility will be increased by more than a half.

The company is also implementing one of the most important infrastructural projects in the country - the Baltic Pipe project which consists in the construction of a two-way offshore gas pipeline connecting Poland and Denmark, expansion of the local transmission network and three gas compressor stations.

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