Submission of 2016 Gas NDP: networks to be developed in line with expansion of Nord Stream pipeline

- German gas TSOs submit consulted NDP document to national regulatory authority
- TSOs and majority of market participants recommend building network development on expansion of Nord Stream pipeline
- Investments of €4.4 billion required in the period to 2026
- Switchover of low CV gas networks to high CV gas supplies remains a key focus of NDP

Berlin, 1 April 2016. The draft 2016 Gas Network Development Plan (NDP), which the German gas transmission system operators (TSOs) today submitted to the German national regulatory authority Bundesnetzagentur (BNetzA), provides a comprehensive action plan for network development to ensure a natural gas supply that is fit for the future.

The current submission comes after an extensive public consultation in the course of which 28 responses were received and a majority of market participants expressed their support for the network development proposal put forward by the TSOs, which was based on a model case that builds on the expansion of the Nord Stream pipeline. The additional capacity provided by the expanded Nord Stream pipeline could thus be used to deliver a considerable proportion of the additional German gas demand projected for the future. “Our robust network development proposals show that we take our responsibility for supply security seriously and particularly reflect the fact that the supply sources for the natural gas we use to meet our energy demand are changing and will continue to do so in the future”, comments Inga Posch, managing director of the TSO association FNB Gas.

The development measures now proposed by the TSOs take account not only of current developments affecting the European infrastructure but also of the large-scale decline in German and Dutch natural gas production output and the resulting general need to migrate gas networks currently supplied with gas of low calorific value quality (“low CV gas”) to high CV gas supplies. In the period to 2026 the TSOs propose to carry out development projects with a total investment volume of €4.4 billion to meet these long-term challenges. The planned measures will expand the German gas transmission networks by some 800 kilometres of new pipelines and create a total of about 551 MW of additional compressor capacity.

Other than working on the actual content of this year's NDP, which is the fifth to be produced since 2012, the TSOs have placed a particular emphasis on further improving transparency. At http://www.nep-gas-datenbank.de they have now published a database for the first time to provide details on the metrics on which the NDP works have been based.

Due to legislative changes the next NDP will be published in two years’ time. “In view of the long-term nature of the natural gas supply business and the time and effort that goes into producing and
consulting each plan this is an appropriate decision,” emphasises Ralph Bahke, chairman of the board of FNB Gas.

About FNB Gas:
The Berlin-based association Vereinigung der Fernleitungsnetzbetreiber Gas e.V. (FNB Gas) was founded in 2012 by the German gas transmission system operators (TSOs), i.e. the network companies operating the major supra-regional and cross-border gas transportation pipelines. One key focus of the association’s activities is the Gas Network Development Plan, which has been drawn up annually by the TSOs since 2012. The association also acts as a central point of contact for policymakers, the media and the general public on behalf of its members.


Press contact:
Nils Grabbe
Vereinigung der Fernleitungsnetzbetreiber Gas e. V.
Georgenstraße 23
D-10117 Berlin

Phone: +49 30 921023532
Fax: +49 30 921023543
Email: nils.grabbe@fnb-gas.de
www.fnb-gas.de