

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE PETROLEUM SAFETY AUTHORITY NORWAY
AND
THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER
MANAGEMENT
CONCERNING
THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
RELATED MATTERS
AND
PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTATION
RELATED TO THE SAFE CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION AND OPERATION
OF EXISTING AND FUTURE TRANSIT PIPELINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
CROSSING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE NETHERLANDS

JUNE 2004

PART I INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Transportation of natural gas from Norway to continental European countries is carried out by means of pipeline transportation systems from the Norwegian Continental Shelf and land territory. The pipeline transportation systems transporting gas to Belgium and France are crossing the Continental Shelf of the Netherlands as well as the Continental Shelves of Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany as shown in Appendix I to this document.

Norwegian authorities fully acknowledge the need for the relevant authorities to be regularly informed about safety and environmental related matters of importance to existing and future pipeline transportation systems. Norwegian authorities are also in need of being informed on matters of significance to the safety of the pipeline transportation systems crossing the continental shelves of the nations mentioned.

In addition to information submitted by the operator to the Petroleum Safety Authority Norway (PSA), it is assumed that the authorities of the transit nations mentioned will have access to information on incidents or activities which may have an impact on such matters.

Based on this recognition, the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (MVW) and PSA have agreed that arrangements for co-operation should be developed to secure mutual information and necessary consultation on such matters.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out these arrangements and important premises which they are based upon.

PART II AGREED PROCEDURES

1.

PSA will inform MVW about safety and environmental related matters of importance, including emergency situations, with respect to the construction, installation and operation of the pipeline transportation systems.

2.

MVW will inform PSA about safety related matters of importance including emergency situations, with respect to the construction, installation and operation of the pipeline transportation systems.

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3.

PSA and MVW will, when matters arise, that may have an impact on the established safety level of the pipeline transportation systems, consult each other to try to achieve a unified view concerning the matters and the carrying out of necessary actions.

4.

PSA and MVW will, prior to any supervisory activity of the pipeline transportation systems, inform each other mutually. This with a view for each party to evaluate the need for participating in the supervisory activities. PSA and MVW will also inform each other mutually about results of such supervisory activities.

5.

In case of damages or occurrences being of importance to the safety of the pipeline transportation systems, contact between PSA and MVW shall be established as quickly as possible.

6.

Safety related correspondence of importance to the pipeline transportation systems between MVW and the operating company will be copied to PSA.

7.

Safety and environmental related correspondence of importance to the pipeline transportation systems between PSA and the operating company will be copied to MVW.

8.

PSA shall consult with MVW prior to giving its recommendation to the relevant Norwegian authorities with regard to decisions on abandoning and/or total or partial removal of the parts of the pipeline transportation systems which are installed on the Continental Shelf of the Netherlands.

9.

Meetings between PSA and MVW will be arranged when deemed necessary.

10.

PSA and MVW will keep each other duly informed about the assessment of the operator's annual safety inspection activities. Based on the assessment, PSA and MVW will co-operate with regard to the Authorities' requirements and recommendations to the operator's inspection programme for the following year.

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The arrangements provided for in this Memorandum of Understanding shall not be construed as affecting any of the rights or obligations provided for in national law, nor do they exempt PSA or MVW from their obligations under national law. If it appears that activities under this Memorandum of Understanding contradict such obligations, PSA and MVW will consult with a view to rectifying the matter.

**PART III
ENTRY INTO FORCE**

This Memorandum of Understanding enters into force as from the date of signature and supersedes previous MOUs between the State Supervision of Mines and NPD related to pipeline transportation systems crossing the Continental Shelf of the Netherlands.

This document is issued in 2 originals, one for either party. A copy of the signed document will be sent to the operating companies of the pipeline transportation systems.

Date

Chief-Engineer Director North Sea Directorate

Date

Director Petroleum Safety Authority Norway