

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR BLUE CURRENT NATURAL GAZ PIPELINE

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In this abstract, first of all briefly I will explain the project and I will also explain Environmental Impact Assessment for the project, which is called “**Blue Current Natural Gas Pipe Line**”.

According to project, Turkish Government will taken natural gas from Russian by laying pipe at the bottom crossing through the Black Sea. Turkey will import 16-billion m³ natural gas per year (2007-2025). For this commercial agreement Turkish Government constructed land pipeline from Samsun to Ankara. It's about 500 km. Others consortium will be constructing two pipelines under the Black Sea which is from Djubga (Russian) to Samsun. One of them is about 390 km. another is 382 km. Cost of this project is 2,297 billion US \$.

Black Sea is the most isolated from the world ocean. Its only tenuous link with other seas is with the Mediterranean Sea through the strait of İstanbul, the Sea of Marmara and the strait of Çanakkale. The catchments area of the Black Sea is over 2 million km², entirely or partially covering 22 countries in Europe and Asia. The surface area of the Black Sea is 423.000 km². It contains a total volume of 547.000 km³ of water and has a maximum dept of 2.212 m.

Turkish Government responsibilities area is Exclusive Economic Zone in this project. In case of like this project that whom is constructing and preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment report. According to the Turkish EIA Regulation (that has entered into force on February 7, 1993, and revised on 1997, on the basis of article 10 of the Environmental Act, coded 2872) prepared the EIA report for the Turkish side in order to review and evaluate which was send to Ministry of Environment by the owner of the project.

As you known the purpose of EIA regulation is to regulate the administrative and technical principles which will be obeyed during the process of Environmental Impact Assessment to be realized with a view to identify and to evaluate all possible impacts on environment of investment decisions of all public or private organizations, institutions and agencies whose proposed activities may cause environmental problems; to prevent or mitigate the adverse impacts to such an extent that they would not do any harm to the environment and to assess the alternatives of the activities.

A “**Specially Commissions**” was formed by the Ministry of Environment in order to take a responsibility in the process of Review and Evaluation of the EIA report. This commission consisted of the representatives of the central or local organizations and agencies which were related with the subject of the proposed activity, the owner of the activity or his representative, representative of the agency or organization preparing EIS, the record secretary of the public participation meeting and the representatives of the Ministry. In the period for review and evaluation of EIA, the commission members review and evaluated the EIA Report and explained their opinion.

On the other hand, a meeting was held to inform the public about the investment and to obtain their opinions and recommendations at the project side. After ending of Review- Evaluation Process, the EIA Report was accepted as the final EIA Report.

Some Important issues that are considered in the EIA Report listed at below;

1-Sources and Types of impact during construction, Operation and possible Emergencies of the subsea crossing

1-1.Sources of Pollution

- a)Emergency gas eruptions
- b)Seashore gas storage
- c)Floating facilities for preparing, shipping and assembling of the exploitation objects
- d)Effluent coming from the industrial and resort plants located on the seashore
- e)Electrical welding
- f)Deep-Water works and soil damping

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g)Wastes

1-2. Types of Impact

1-2-1. Eruptions in to the Atmosphere

- a)Running of vessel diesel engines
- b)Electrode type welding
- c)Noise and vibration

1-2-2.Water Impact

- a)Technical, backwashed and reject water
- b)Public utility water
- c)Suspended material at deep-water type of works, at backfilling the trench with foreign materials and the process of damping.

1-2-3. Sea Sediments Impact

- a)Flushing of the bottom outside the trench impacted by the pipeline
- b>Selecting of deposits at laying the gas line
- c)At damping

1-2-4. Bios Impact

- a)Mechanical destruction
- b)Disturbance of the habitation areas
- c)Displacement from the habitation places (in the vicinity of the gas line routing)
- d)Genetic consequences of the pollution and of its metabolites
- e)Destruction of the structure and degradation of the ecosystem