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DESIGN AND RESEARCH DIVISION

NOTIFICATION

**under Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
for the project:**

**"Interconnection of the national Gas Transmission System of Romania with the similar Gas
Transmission System of the Republic of Serbia;
including power supply, cathodic protection and optic fiber"**

1. INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY	
(i) Information on the nature of the proposed activity	
Type of proposed activity:	The proposed activity consists in the construction and operation on the territory of Romania of a natural gas transmission pipeline. The proposed pipeline will ensure the interconnection of the National Gas Transmission System (by means of the "BRUA" pipeline and the existing pipelines West 1 and West 2), with the similar system of the Republic of Serbia (Mokrin Technological Node).
Is the activity listed in Appendix I of the Convention?	Section 8. Large diameter pipelines for the transport of gas
Purpose of the proposed activity: (E.g. main activity and any / all peripheral activities requiring evaluation)	The project provides for the achievement of the works and activities necessary for the construction, installation and testing of the proposed gas transmission infrastructure (pipeline and related technological elements). The project will be implemented on the territory of Romania, in the county of Timis.
Assessment of the proposed activity (e.g. size, production capacity, etc.)	The main technical characteristics of the gas transmission pipeline are as follows: - Design pressure: 63 bar; - Nominal diameter of the pipeline: 600 mm; - Length of the pipeline on the territory of Romania: 85.56 km; - Maximum transmission flow: 1.6 billion Scm/year with the possibility to increase to 2.5 billion Scm/year;

	- The pipeline will be designed so as to allow inline pig inspection on its entire length. The following technological facilities related to the gas transmission network on the territory of Romania will be installed along the pipeline: 14 valve stations, 3 cathodic protection stations and a commercial gas metering station (GMS). The description of the project features is detailed in Chapter III of the Presentation Report documentation.
Description of the proposed activity (e.g. the technology used):	The main activity proposed by the project is the construction of the gas transmission pipeline. The pipeline will be buried along its entire length, the pipeline will be laid at the depth of at least 1.1 m between the ground surface and its upper crown. According to the "Technical Rules for the Design and Execution of Gas Transmission Pipelines", the working strip required for the execution works of the pipeline with the nominal diameter of DN 600 mm shall be 20 m wide in arable, pasture, hayfields and unproductive land, and for vineyards and orchards, the width will be 14 m. The pipeline will be protected against external corrosion by insulation with special and cathodic materials, by means of the cathodic protection stations to be assembled along its route. Upon the crossing of communication ways (national roads, railways), rivers and canals, appropriate technical solutions have been adopted, based on national, European and international rules and standards. The detailed description of the proposed activity is presented in Chapter III of the Presentation Report documentation.
Description of the purpose of the proposed activity:	The interconnection of the gas transmission systems in Romania and the Republic of Serbia will increase cross-border liquidity, promote transparent and non-discriminatory access of gas market participants to their transmission networks.
Reason for proposing the activity (e.g. socio-economic, physical and geographical grounds)	At present, the National Gas Transmission System of Romania is not interconnected with the National Gas Transmission System of the Republic of Serbia, which leads to the failure to meet the European Union's strategic objectives to achieve a fully integrated and operational gas energy market in order to increase safety of gas supply, as well as increasing the level of energy security in the region. By the construction of this pipeline, the following goals will be met: - achieving the interconnection of the National Gas Transmission System of Romania with the similar system of the Republic of Serbia; - diversification of gas supply sources of the consumers in the region by ensuring access to the Black Sea gas volumes; - development of a transmission capacity that will ensure future interconnection with pipelines that will have potential sources of supply the liquefied gas from the Black Sea coast (the AGRI Project); - transmission to the European gas markets of the Black Sea gas by the interconnection with the Bulgaria - Romania - Hungary - Austria pipeline; - security of gas supply to European countries through access to new gas sources;

	- reducing dependency on gas imports by covering the steady and predictable growth trends in consumption in European countries amid a steady medium and long-term decline in gas supplies from the Russian region; - gas supply of the neighboring areas related to the planned gas pipeline route; - the emergence of a new gas sale market for the Black Sea gas sources by taking them over into the National Gas Transmission System. The project complies with the objectives of the European energy policy to achieve interconnections with similar gas transmission systems in the neighboring countries, in order to create the technical and technological conditions for ensuring the security of gas supply, according to the provisions of the European Union Council Directive 2004/67/EC of April 26th, 2004 on measures to guarantee the security of gas supply, transposed by Law 346/2007. The investment is included in the list of major projects proposed by Transgaz in the "Development Plan of the National Gas Transmission System for the period of 2018-2027" approved by N. E.R.A. by Decision no. 1954/14.12.2018. Also, the Romania-Serbia interconnection project is in line with the Republic of Serbia's Energy Development Strategy by 2025 for the period of 2017-2023.
Additional information/ comments	-
(ii) Information on the temporal and spatial basis of the proposed activity	
Location:	The proposed investment objective will be located in Romania, in the county of Timis, on the administrative territory of the following localities: Recas and Remetea Mare, Giarmata, Pischia, Sanandrei, Ortisoara, Satchinez, Biled, Sandra, Lenauheim, Gottlob and Comlosu Mare. The proposed route, 85.56 km long, will start from the interconnection point with the BRUA pipeline and the existing pipelines West 1 and West 2 (Petrovaselo village, Recas town), the other end of the pipeline being located in the border area between Romania and the Republic of Serbia, on the territory of the Comlosu Mare locality. The facility of the Commercial Gas Metering Station will be located on the territory of Comlosu Mare locality, about 400 m away from the Romania - Republic of Serbia border. The location of the project on the Romanian territory is presented in detail in the Presentation Report. According to the available information, there are no ongoing projects in the border crossing area and no other investment is envisaged.
	The route of the gas transmission pipeline designed in the general East-West direction, between Petrovaselo and Comlosu Mare localities, overlaps with a plain, Most of the lands on which the gas pipeline will be located have agricultural use. On the territory of Romania, the pipeline will cross a series of roads, railways, rivers, and canals.

Description of the location: (e.g. socio-economic, physical and geographical characteristics)	There are no cross-border water courses in the project implementation area and there is no forest vegetation. In relation to the designated protected natural areas, the pipeline route will intersect the Natura 2000 ROSPA0142 Teremia Mare-Tomnatic site on a small length (about 2.3 km). In the interconnection area of the pipeline, at the border between Romania and the Republic of Serbia, the land has the agricultural use category, the temporarily occupied area being fully restored after the completion of the works. Within approximately 1 km of the location of the pipeline in the border area there are no sensitive or ecologically important areas (wetlands designated by the Ramsar Convention, national parks, nature reservations, scientific sites or important sites from archaeological, cultural or historical point of view). The designated protected areas Natura 2000, ROSPA0142 Teremia Mare - Tomnatic and ROSCI0287 Comlosu Mare are located more than 1.5 km from the pipeline interconnection area at the border.
The reason for the selection of the location of the proposed activity (e.g. socio-economic, physical-geographic characteristics)	The optimization and selection of the final route of the gas transmission pipeline on the Romanian territory was achieved taking into account the following criteria: - the need for minimum land arrangements; - minimizing the length of the pipeline route; - technical, economic and construction considerations, as well as possibilities for monitoring the pipeline during the operation; - minimal impact on the environment; - ensuring the conditions for the mechanized execution of the excavation and construction-assembly works; - operational safety; - observance of safety distances to neighboring units; - minimizing social impacts. The implementation of the project will lead to the improvement of the living conditions of the rural population in order to meet the criteria for the European standards of living, attracting new investors, creating new jobs and consequently the economic and social development of the area.
Timelines of the proposed activity (e.g. time and duration of construction and operation)	The estimated timeframe for the execution of the project is about 12 months. The estimated commencement of the investment - July 2020. The gas transmission pipeline has a proposed duration by the technical design of at least 40 years of safe operation and technological efficiency.
Maps and other pictorial documents related to the proposed activity	The location onsite of the proposed project is indicated in the Site Layout Plan. The graphical representation of the project facilities in the plan is reflected in the layout plans. The drawings are attached to the Presentation Report.
Additional information / comments	-

(iii) Information on expected environmental impact and proposed mitigation measures	
Scope of the assessment (E.g. Considerations on the cumulative impact, Evaluation of alternatives, development issues, impact on the connected activities, etc.)	The project is included in Annex II of the consolidated Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The Environmental Impact Assessment procedure has been initiated and is ongoing. The authority responsible for the coordination of the procedure will draw up the Decision provided for in Article 4 of the consolidated Directive 2011/92 /EU. The description of the likely significant environmental effects of the project is presented in Chapter VI of the Presentation Report documentation.
Expected environmental impact of the proposed activity (e.g. Type, location, magnitude)	The gas transmission pipeline is an underground, watertight construction, the impact being manifested during the execution period, within the working corridor. No significant impact on the environment is foreseen, provided the measures for impact prevention and mitigation foreseen in the project are complied with. The characteristics of the forecast impact on environmental factors during the execution and operation period are presented in Chapter VII of the Presentation Report documentation.
Inputs (e.g. raw material, energy sources, etc.)	The raw materials expected to be used during the execution and operation of the investment are presented in Chapter III of the Presentation Report documentation.
Exit (e.g. Quantity and type of: air disposal, disposal in water, solid waste, etc.)	The description of the sources of pollutants and possible significant environmental effects of the project is presented in Chapter VI of the Presentation Report documentation.
Cross-border impact (e.g. Types, location, magnitude)	The project does not foresee complex work and activities leading to a significant negative impact on environmental factors, no negative impact is expected in a cross-border context.
Proposed improvement measures (e.g. If known, proposed improvement measures, improvements, diminishments, compensation for environmental effects)	Measures to prevent and mitigate the potential impact on the environmental factors proposed by the project for the period of implementation and operation are presented in Chapter VII of the Presentation Report documentation.
Additional information / comments	-
(IV) Proponent/Developer:	
Name, address, phone number and fax number	Beneficiary: S.N.T.G.N. TRANSGAZ S.A. - Address: Medias, C.I.Motas Square, No. 1, code: 551130, - phone 0269/803333, fax: 0269839029 - E-mail address: cabinet@transgaz.ro

(V) EIA documentation	
Is the documentation (e.g. EIA or EIS report) included in the notification?	No The notification includes the documentation for the Presentation Report drawn up in accordance with the legal provisions in force.
If not/partially, description of the additional documentation to be transmitted and (approximately) the date when the documentation will be valid	-
Additional information/ comments	-
2. POINTS OF CONTACT	
(i) Point of contact for the possible affected Part or Parties:	
Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the EIA (refer to decision I/3, appendix): Name, address, tel and fax numbers	Ministry of Environmental Protection Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 2, 11070 Belgrade Telefon: +381. 011/3110-271 Faks: +381. 011/3110-298 Email: info[at]ekologija.gov.rs Ms. Sabina Ivanovic Focal Point in Serbia for the Espoo Convention Telephone: +381. 011/31-31-356 eMail: Sabina.Ivanovic@ekologija.gov.rs Web: www.ekologija.gov.rs
List of affected parties to which notification is being sent	Serbia
(ii) Points of contact for the Party of origin	
Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the EIA (refer to Decision I/3, appendix) Name, address, tel and fax numbers	Ministry of Environment Focal Point for the Espoo Convention: Mr. Aureliu Dumitrescu Blvd. Libertatii nr 12, sect. 5, Bucharest, Romania Tel 021 316 61 54 Fax 021 316 04 21 e-mail: aureliu.dumitrescu@mmediu.ro
Decision making authority if different than authority responsible for coordination activities relating to the EIA Name, address, tel and fax numbers	Environmental Protection Agency Timiș Director Ms. Gabriela Mariana Lambrino Blv. Liviu Rebreanu no. 18-18A, Postal code 300210, Timișoara Phone/Fax : 0040256.491.795, 0040256.226.675 mobile phone: 0040746248675 e-mail : office@apmtm.anpm.ro

3. INFORMATION ON THE EIA PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IS LOCATED	
(i) Information on the EIA process that will be applied to the proposed activity	
Time schedule:	Approximately 9 months
Opportunities for the affected party/parties to be involved in the EIA process	Serbia, is in the same time beneficiary of this project as a possible affected party, as well. That is why, as a possible affected party, Serbia may decide on its implication in the EIA procedure and can send comments and issues to be treated in the EIA documentation. After completion of the EIA documentation by the Romanian party, this will be sent to the Serbian focal point in order to be assessed by the Serbian authorities and public. The Romanian Ministry of Environment, EPA Timiș and the developer of the project may participate, at the invitation of the Republic of Serbia, in any public hearing proposed on the Serbian territory. If needed, consultation with the authorities of the affected party, based on art.5 of the Espoo Convention will be agreed later in the procedure.
Opportunities for the affected party/parties to review and comment on the notification and the EIA documentation	Comments on the notification are expected to accompany the Serbian answers to the present notification. Comments on EIA documentation are expected during the procedure.
Nature and timing of the possible decision:	The possible decision is the issuing of environmental agreement for this project and issuing the construction authorization in 2019.
Process for approval of the proposed activity	The proposed activity will be approved by construction authorization after the environmental agreement is issued by the environmental competent authorities.
Additional information/comments	-
4. INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	
Public participation procedures	In accordance with Romanian legislation, public participation during the procedure: public hearing with 30 days access to the EIA documentation and an opportunity for submitting comments in writing before and during public debate.
Expected start and duration of public consultation	1 month for public debate on EIA documentation. The public consultation for the project will be agreed with the environmental authorities in Serbia, after confirmation of their involvement in the procedure.
Additional information/comments	
5. DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE	
Date	We expect your response to this notification by 15th of March 2019.