

# Germany Approves Gazprom Pipeline In Territorial Waters, Despite U.S. Opposition

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Vitaly Nevar / TASS

Russia's energy monopoly Gazprom has welcomed Germany's approval of a multibillion-dollar gas pipeline to Europe that is viewed with suspicion by Moscow's geopolitical rivals.

The Nord Stream 2 project [announced](#) Wednesday that it received a construction and operation permit from a northern German regional mining authority for a 55-km section of the gas 1,200-km pipeline off the Baltic Sea coast.

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"This key decision opens the possibility of starting construction of the new Nord Stream-2 offshore gas pipeline's most important section in German territorial waters," Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller was [cited](#) as saying by Interfax on Wednesday.

The Stralsund Mining Authority issued the permit less than a week after top diplomats from the United States and Poland expressed strong opposition to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

“We see it as undermining Europe’s overall energy security and stability and providing Russia yet another tool to politicize energy as a political tool,” U.S. State Secretary Rex Tillerson said at the time.

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