

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

DECISION No 2 - IIP /2023

on assessing the need of carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment

Pursuant to Art. 93. para. 1, item 1., para. 2, item 4, para. 5 and para. 6 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA), Art. 7, para 1 and Art. 8, para 1 of the Ordinance on the terms and procedure for carrying out environmental impact assessment (the Ordinance on EIA), Art. 31, para. 4 of the Biological Diversity Act (BDA), Art. 40 para 4 in connection with para 3 of the *Ordinance on the terms and procedure for compatibility assessment of plans, programmes, projects and investment proposals with the subject-matter and for the purpose of protected areas preservation* (the Ordinance for CA), and based on written documentation submitted by the contracting authority under Annex No. 2 to Art. 6 of the Ordinance on EIA, as well as opinions received from the Ministry of Health and Basin Directorate Danube Region

I D E C I D E D:

not to be carried out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Investment proposal *Gas pipeline connecting Chiren UGS to the existing gas transmission network of Bulgartransgaz in the area of Butan village*, which **is unlikely** to have a significant negative effect on the natural habitats, populations and habitats of species subject to conservation in protected areas

Contracting authority: Bulgartransgaz EAD, UIC 175203478

Head office: 1336 Sofia, Lyulin 2 residential district, 66 Pancho Vladigerov Blvd.

Short description of the investment proposal:

The Investment proposal (IP) is for construction of a gas pipeline connecting the underground gas storage Chiren UGS to the existing gas transmission network of Bulgartransgaz EAD in the area of Butan village. The route is approximately 41.5 km long and passes through the territory of Vratsa district, Vratsa municipality - Chiren village, Devene village, Tri Kladentsi village, Krivodol municipality - Osen village, Borovan municipality - Malorad village, Hairedin municipality - Manastirishte village, Rogozen village , Botevo village, Burzina village, Hairedin village, Mizia municipality - Sofronievo village, Kozloduy municipality - Butan village, Kriva bara village. The gas pipeline has the following parameters: Gas pipeline maximum operating pressure (MOP) P=7,5 MPa; Gas pipeline design (calculation) pressure (DP) P=7.875 MPa. Diameter of the gas transmission pipeline - DN 700 - 28",



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Operating temperature - min. - 10°C: max +40°C and the following auxiliary equipment:

- Optical cable line – the route of the optic cable follows the route of the gas transmission pipeline. An optic cable line was designed, the route of which is located in the easement area of the gas pipeline, on the left side of the gas pipeline, in direction from Chiren UGS to Pigging facility (PF) Butan (the starting point of the gas pipeline), at a distance from 6 to 9 m from the gas pipeline axis:

- Cathodic protection stations (CPS) - two cathodic stations are envisaged - one at the site of Valve assembly (VA) Manastirishte and one at the end point of the section at Chiren UGS;

- Safety valve - a safety valve is envisaged at the start point of the new gas pipeline at PC 414+945.8. The dimensions of the safety valve are 5x5 m south 2 m from the axis of the existing DN1200 gas pipeline within its easement in property with identifier 18505.140.1 in the land of Glozhene village, Kozloduy municipality:

- PF Butan - the launch/receive site of PF Butan is located on the land of Butan village, Kozloduy municipality. The site area is 2,146 decares, falling into a property with identifier 07116.76.4 in the land of Butan village, Kozloduy municipality with secured road access via a municipal road (Botev road) that reaches south to Butan village. The power supply is provided by the existing 20 kV line, Bulgartransgaz EAD property through the route of a new electric cable along the route of the optic cable in the easement of the gas pipeline of 130.04 m length. Distribution switchgear is envisaged at the site of PF Butan;

- PF Chiren 3 - the launch/receive site of PF Chiren 3 is located on the land of Chiren village, Vratsa municipality, Vrana region, at 1,194 decares area, immediately next to PF Chiren 1/Vratsa 1 for pipeline branch Vratsa 1, including road access to it, at an area of 0.223 decares in Land plot 81400.38.67. A gas pipeline connection (gathering) to the newly designed site for "Expansion of Chiren UGS capacity - above-ground part" has also been designed. The end point for connection of the gathering is envisaged immediately next to the western fence of the new technological site for project "Chiren UGS expansion-above-ground part" - connection point with coordinates 4803173.545 m 345166.283 m in CS BGS 2005. The power supply of PF Chiren 3 will be provided at a low voltage level from the existing power supply of Chiren UGS with a newly designed route from the northwest fence of Chiren UGS in the active easement of gas pipeline Vratsa 1 and in the easement of the design gas pipeline to the site of PF Chiren 3 of 232.95 m length. The start point of the route of the low-voltage electric cable for powering the anode grounding devices (AGD) to PF Chiren 3 is from the northwest fence of Chiren UGS in the existing easement of gas pipeline Vratsa 1 and in the easement of the design gas pipeline to picket 40+800, bends to the northwest along field road at a distance of about 300 m then turns to the northeast along field road, and AGD are located at a distance of 140 m. Total length of the AGD cable is 810.46 m;

- VA Manastirishte - valve assembly site is envisaged in the land of the village of Manastirishte, Hayredin municipality, Vratsa region, at 155 sq.m. area located in a property, identifier 47010.124.36. The power supply of the site will be about 3.2 km long and the low voltage cable for powering its AGD will be about 328m long.

The main construction activities include: humus removal and its temporary deposition within the boundaries of the construction strip; excavation works for digging trenches for laying the gas pipeline and the technological communication connection (TCC - optic cable) and the site facilities; backfill of trenches; recultivation of the construction strip; complex construction works when crossing water bodies, gullies, canals, railway lines, roads; installation works - mainly welding works on the gas pipeline; gas pipeline corrosion protection; installation of equipment of the facilities; strength and tightness tests of the gas pipeline according to BDS EN 1594.

The investment proposal in its entirety falls within the scope of Annex No. 2, item 10, "k" of the ERA. According to the provision of Art. 93, para. 1, item 1 of the EPA, it is subject to assessment of the necessity of carrying out EIA. Pursuant to Art. 93, para 2, item 4 of the EPA, the competent decision-making authority is the Minister of Environment and Water as the IP is interrelated with an investment proposal: High-Pressure Gas Transmission Pipelines with AGRS from Chiren UGS to the town of Kozloduy and the town of Oryahovo, announced as a site of national significance by virtue of Decision No. 615 of 14.07.2009 and Decision No. 279 of 08.05.2013 of the Council of Ministers.

According to the provisions of Art. 31, para. 1 of the BDA and Art. 2, para. 1, item 1 of the *Ordinance on CA*, the investment proposal is subject to assessment for its compatibility with the subject and objectives of protection of the protected areas of Natura 2000 ecological network.

Following inquiry to the MoEW, it was established that the IP route does not affect protected areas within the meaning of the *Protected Areas Act* (PAA).

Part of the beginning of the gas pipeline route falls within the boundaries of a protected area within the meaning of the PAA- BG0002009 Zlatiyata for protection of wild birds, announced by Order No. ПД-548/05.09.2008 of the Minister of Environment and Water, amended by Order No. ПД-69/28.01.2013 (promulgated SG, No. 83/23.09.2008 and No. 10/05.02.2013) and amended and supplemented by Order № ПД-1039/03.11.2022 (promulgated SG, issue 89/08.11.2022) and is located near protected area BG0000614 Ogosta River for protection of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna, included in the list of protected areas adopted by the Council of Ministers by Decision No. 122/02.03.2007 amended by DCM No. 811 of 16.11.2010 (promulgated SG, No. 21/2007 and SG No. 96/2010);

The end point of the gas pipeline route is located near protected area BG0000594 Bozhiya most-Ponora for protection of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna, announced by Order No. RD-262/31.03.2021 of the Minister of the Environment and Water (promulgated SG, No. 41/18.05.2021).

During compatibility assessment within the meaning of Art. 40, para. 2 of the *Ordinance on CA*, it was established that IP Gas pipeline connecting Chiren UGS to the existing gas transmission network of Bulgartransgaz in the area of Butan village is compatible in relation to the regime of protected area BG0002009 Zlatiyata, determined by the announcement order.

After review of the submitted documentation and on the grounds of Art. 40, para. 3 of the *Ordinance on CA*, based on the criteria under Art. 16 of it, according to assessment of the probable degree of negative impact, IP Gas pipeline connecting Chiren UGS to the existing gas transmission network of Bulgartransgaz in the area of Butan village **is unlikely** to have a significant negative impact on natural habitats, populations and habitats of species subject to protection in protected areas.

REASONS:

I. Characteristics of the investment proposal: size, affected area, parameters, scale, scope; interconnection and cumulation with other existing and/or approved investment proposals; use of natural resources, bowels of the earth, soil, water and biodiversity; waste generation; pollution and harmful effects; risk of major failures and/or disasters; risks to human health:

1. Gas pipeline construction aims to provide a technical capability for natural gas supply along a new route to the gas storage facility in Chiren. Following implementation of the gas pipeline new route, the security of natural gas supplies to the underground gas storage Chiren will increase, as natural gas will be transported along one more route. The planned technological connectivity of the newly designed gas pipeline with the existing system in the area of Chiren UGS will provide various options for technological modes of the network, including ensuring of alternative routes in transmission directions, if necessary.

2. For the activities related to implementation of the investment proposal, construction materials will be used, including natural resources such as sand, gravel and water. Inert materials will be used in the composition of concrete mixtures (if ready-made concrete mixture is not used) for construction of the sites of the gas pipeline facilities, concrete fire resistant belt, foundations, as well as the facilities along the route for crossing other infrastructure and water bodies, strengthening the earth base and slopes. During implementation of the IP, bottled water will be provided for drinking needs of the construction workers. Water needed for construction mortars, concrete mixes and for water sprinkling of the temporary roads will be supplied by tank trucks. Natural resources use is not envisaged during the operating period.

3. Water will also be used for hydraulic test of the gas pipeline from the Chiren III dam under Permit No. 11490001/14.06.2007 issued by Basin Directorate Danube Region, amended and extended by Decision No. Bp-1/21.06.2022 which allows water use for cooling, fire protection and hydro test. Water will be returned in the dam, after filtering and sedimentation, as well as in accordance with the issued discharge permit.

4. The types of earthworks during gas pipeline construction include excavation of the soil layer, trench excavation, manual excavation for uncovering underground communications, terraces excavation, trench backfilling and embankment for terrace restoration, return of soil layer (technical recultivation). Excavation in soil for the trench is planned to be done by an excavator. In rocky soils areas, rock mass will be broken and excavated by an excavator with a hydraulic hammer. No use of explosives is envisaged. The generated land masses will be used for back-filling, making vertical levelling - levelling of sites upon completion of construction works, and the rest will be deposited at municipal landfills for land masses.

5. During construction, domestic, industrial and construction waste will be generated. Maintenance of construction equipment and machinery, when necessary, is planned to be carried out in garages, not on the territory of the construction site.

6. The main and auxiliary technological processes in gas pipeline operation are not sources of wastewater generation.

7. During construction, no discomfort or significant harmful effects on the environment and people are expected, as:

7.1. the expected pollution with dust and other harmful substances from transport and construction machinery will be insignificant, in the area of the construction strip and access roads, it will be of short duration, temporary and reversible;

7.2. the generated waste will only be temporarily stored on site until its removal and subsequent treatment, and its impact is expected to be short-term, temporary, reversible and insignificant;

7.3. the noise generated by the transport and construction works to be executed in the area of the construction strip and access roads is expected to be insignificant, short-term, temporary and reversible and is not expected to have a harmful impact.

8. In order to prevent dust emissions into the air during the period of IP implementation, measures are provided for, namely - water sprinkling of the terrain during excavation works, dry periods and when necessary.

9. During operation, no discomfort or significant harmful effects on the environment and people are expected, considering that:

9.1. there will be minor, periodic dust and flue-gas generation from the vehicles (light vehicles) in the easement area and access roads. The impact will be minor, short-term and reversible;

9.2. insignificant amounts of waste will be generated, which will be stored in the condensate collector and removed for subsequent treatment by the relevant specialized company, therefore the impact is expected to be short-term, reversible and insignificant;

9.3. gas transport technology does not include sources of physical factors;

9.4. no waste water will be generated.

10. Considering the main activity - natural gas transmission through a closed pipeline system, no emissions of harmful substances from the technological processes are expected during IP operation.

11. The type, nature and scope of the construction works do not create conditions for occurrence of major failures and/or disasters, therefore it is considered that there is no risk of occurrence of such events directly related to the IP implementation.

12. Prior run into operation, an emergency plan (plan for rescue and emergency recovery activities) for the gas pipeline will be developed, with the aim of creating an organization to deal with disasters and accidents, and technical support for rescue and emergency recovery activities.

13. The closest objects subject to health protection near the gas pipeline route are the residential buildings of the village of Devene, municipality of Vratsa - the gas pipeline route is situated 230 m from the last houses of the village and the village of Kriva bara, Kozloduy municipality - the route is 590 m from the last houses of the village. With regard to the current IP, there are no residential buildings that fall into the area of preventive spatial protection.

II. Location of the investment proposal: existing and approved land use; relative abundance, accessibility, quality and restoration of natural resources; absorption capacity of environment; coastal areas and marine environment; mountains and forest areas; territories protected by law; affected areas of the National Ecological Network; territories related to the investment proposal where the environmental quality standards are violated or such probability is considered to exist; densely populated areas; landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological value; territories and/or areas and sites of specific sanitary status or subject to health protection:

1. The IP falls on the territory of Vratsa region in the following lands: Kozloduy municipality - Glozhene village, Butan village and the village of Kriva bara; Mizia municipality - Sofronievo village; Hayredin municipality - Manastirishte village, Rogozen village, Botevo village, Burzina village and the village of Hayredin; Borovan municipality - Malorad village; municipality of Krivodol - Osen village; municipality of Vratsa - Chiren village, the village of Devene and the village of Tri kladentsi.

The location of the technological sites for servicing the gas pipeline and the areas affected by them is as follows:

- safety valve with an area of 0.025 decares in land plot 18505 in the land of Glozhene village, Kozloduy municipality at the connection point of the gas pipeline with the existing DN1200 gas pipeline 2 m south of its axis within its easement;
- launch/receive PF Butan with 2,146 decares area in land plot 07116.76.4 in the land of Butan village, Kozloduy municipality with secured road access via a municipal road (Botev road) that reaches south to Butan village.
- VA Manastirishte with an area of 0.155 decares in land plot 47010.124.36 in the land of Manastirishte village, Hayredin municipality;
- launch/receive PF Butan 3 with an area of 1.194 decares and an access road to it with an area of 0.223 decares in land plot 81400.38.67 in the land of Chiren village, Vratsa municipality.

2. The total affected area of the route and the gas pipeline easement is 1245,525 decares, and of the electric cables and anode grounding devices - 12,340 decares. The working strip is envisaged to coincide with the easement area of the gas pipeline, therefore no additional area will be required for temporary activities during construction works.

3. Road approaches are provided for servicing the newly designed PF Butan and PF Chiren 3 intended for servicing and fire-fighting needs. The construction of road connections to the sites will not result in changes to the existing road infrastructure.

4. Considering the assessment of the likely degree of negative impact, the IP is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on natural habitats, populations and habitats subject to protection in the protected areas of the Natura 2000 network, as:

4.1. The route of the gas pipeline connecting Chiren UGS to the existing gas transmission network is outside the boundaries of protected areas BG0000614 Ogosta River and BG0000594 Bozhiya most-Ponora, therefore there is no probability of direct or indirect destruction or damage to natural habitats and habitats of species subject of protection in protected areas;

4.2. The IP implementation will not violate the integrity, structure and functions of the protected areas as construction works will affect an insignificant percentage of the area of protected area BG0002009 Zlatiyata only. A small area of the start point of the gas pipeline route falls within the periphery of protected area BG0002009 Zlatiyata in a minimum extent - respectively 29.120 ha or 0.066% of its area;

4.3. Achievement of the conservation objectives of protected area BG0002009 Zlatiyata will not be hindered given that no changes will be induced in vital factors determining the functions of the habitats or ecosystems used by bird species subject to conservation;

4.4. The route crosses protected area BG0002009 Zlatiyata in a peripheral section, so implementation of the IP will not lead to fragmentation of populations of bird species protected in the area;

4.5. Implementation of the IP is unlikely to lead to fragmentation of migration corridors of species subject to conservation in protected areas, which may lead to a change in the number and structure of their populations, as during its implementation the removed humus layer will be temporarily deposited within the boundaries of the construction strip and after completion of the excavation works, formation of trenches for laying the gas pipeline, the technological communication connection and the site facilities, trenches will be backfilled and recultivation of the construction strip will be performed, i.e. almost all

the affected area will be restored after finishing construction works;

4.6. The temporary nature and the method of implementation of the activities of IP implementation do not imply eviction or permanent disturbance, which would lead to a change in the number, density and structure of the populations of animal species, including birds, subject to protection in the protected areas;

4.7. The habitats of the species of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates subject to protection in the protected areas will not be affected by implementation of the gas pipeline, as after laying the pipes, the terrain will be completely restored to its original form;

4.8. The implementation and operation of the IP will not result in generation of emissions and waste in types and quantities that have a significant negative impact on natural habitats, populations and habitats of species subject to conservation in the protected areas;

4.9. It is unlikely the realization of the specific IP to lead to accumulation of cumulative impacts of negative effect on the protected areas and their subject of conservation.

5. According to the opinion of Basin Directorate Danube Region (Outgoing No. IY-01-946(1)/20.12.2022), within the meaning of Art. 4a of the *Ordinance on EIA*, the IP implementation will not have a significant impact on water and aquatic ecosystems and is **permissible** in relation to the environmental protection objectives set out in the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2016-2021 and the Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) 2016-2021, as well as the measures planned to achieve these goals, provided that the measures specified in item 1.1.2 and the regulatory requirements specified in item 2 of the opinion are complied with.

5.1. The presented corridor of the gas transmission pipeline route does not include facilities for water abstraction from underground water and sanitary safeguard zones (SSZ), determined in accordance with *Ordinance 3/16.10.2000 concerning the conditions and the procedure for research, design, approval and operation of safeguard zones next to water supply bodies and equipment for clean and house water supply and close to water supply bodies of mineral water, used for medicinal, preventive, drinking and hygiene needs*. The presented corridor of the gas transmission pipeline route does not fall into the buffer zone with a radius of 1000 m from water abstraction facilities for independent drinking-domestic water supply without certain SSZs, for which it is necessary to observe restrictions according to Appendix No. I to the National catalogue of measures to FRMP.

6. In decommissioning of the gas pipeline, the necessary studies will be carried out whether to proceed in accordance with BDS EN 12327, dismantle the equipment and close the sites in compliance with the general safety rules or to seal the buried pipes by filling them with suitable material and be left in place. The above-ground facilities will be dismantled and the terrain will be restored and recultivated to its original state.

7. In view of the legislation in the field of protection of immovable archaeological cultural heritage, measures have been determined for protection of the registered archaeological sites. Before commencement of construction, monitoring by archaeological teams will be awarded, thus control over the excavations will reduce the risk of possible destruction of cultural values unknown to date.

III. Type and characteristics of the potential impact on environment: extent and spatial extent of impact; nature of impact; cross-border nature of impact; intensity and complexity of impact; probability of impact; expected occurrence, duration, frequency and reversibility of impact; combining with impacts of other existing and/or approved investment proposals; effective mitigation of impacts:

1. The Ministry of Health with Opinion, Outgoing No. 04-09-11/30.03.2023 in the meaning of article 7(2)(2) of the *EIA Ordinance* concerning the degree of significance of the impact and the risk to human health, indicates that the documentation draws the following conclusions:

1.1. The IP does not create prerequisites for the construction and installation activities to cause a permanent deterioration of the quality of atmospheric air, a negative impact on sanitary and safety zones around water sources for drinking household water supply and soil contamination with waste or hazardous substances.

1.2. IP has a limited probability of negative impact during its operation. This applies both to the gas pipeline itself and its easement area. intended for the construction, operation and repair of gas pipelines (with a width of 30 m, symmetrically located but 15 m on both sides of the axis of the pipe), as well as in relation to the zone for preventive protection (in the sense of Art. 10 of the Spatial Development Act) - size of the territory with a width of 200 m on both sides of the gas pipeline and its facilities.

1.3. According to the data provided, no permanent negative impact on the health of workers is expected during the implementation of the IP, subject to compliance with the requirements for health and safety working conditions.

1.4. The implementation and operation of the IP does not have an adverse impact on any of the factors of the living environment within the meaning of § 1, item 12 of the additional provisions of the *Health Law* and thus do not pose risks to human health. In this regard, no impact on the population in the nearest settlements and human health is expected.

Based on the above, The Ministry of Health considers that the IP Gas pipeline connecting Chiren UGS to the existing gas transmission network of Bulgartransgaz EAD in the area of Butan village is permissible to be implemented subject to compliance with the foreseen preventive measures during its implementation and after its commissioning as well as under the conditions set in this administrative act.

2. No impact on the climate is expected during the construction and operation of the investment proposal.

3. The construction of the IP is not associated with significant negative impacts on ambient air quality. During the operation of the pipeline, emissions of harmful substances into the atmospheric air are not foreseen.

4. During the construction of the gas pipeline, the impact on the atmospheric air will be direct, short-term, periodic and reversible in frequency, low in intensity and no complexity of the impact is expected.

5. The significance of impact on geomorphology and water quality during construction in rivers is assessed to be weak to moderate, because in practice, there is a risk only of direct, local, i.e. around and at river crossings, short-term negative but reversible impact. No water flow disturbances are expected. No impact on the quality and geomorphology of surface water bodies is expected during the operation - the gas pipeline and the above-ground facilities thereto.

6. Given the nature of the planned activities, the impacts can be defined as local, short-term, temporary and reversible for the period of construction and insignificant for the period of operation.

7. The impact on tangible assets is expected to be positive both during construction and during operation, as a new facility will be built, part of the gas transmission network of the Republic of Bulgaria. The gas pipeline will favour the development of the area and have a positive impact on the security of natural gas supplies.

8. The implementation and operation of the IP will not lead to impacts on the environmental components of a cross-border nature.

9. Measures have been proposed to prevent, reduce or compensate for significant negative impacts on the environment and human health, with the implementation of which, during the realization of the IP and its normal operation, no significant negative impact on the components of the environment is expected to occur.

IV. Public interest in the investment proposal:

1. According to the requirements of article 4(2) of the *EIA Ordinance*, the Contracting authority and the competent body have announced the investment proposal. The competent authority had notified the mayors of the respective municipalities and town halls about the investment proposal in writing.

2. Pursuant to article 6(9) of the *EIA Ordinance*, public access to the information in Annex 2 to article 6 of the *EIA Ordinance* was provided, as follows:

2.1. by the competent authority using the website of the MoEW;

2.2. by municipalities and town halls: Borovan municipality - Malorad village town hall, Kozloduy municipality - Glozhene town hall, Butan village town hall, Kriva bara village town hall. Mizia Municipality - Sofronievo village town hall, Hayredin Municipality - Manastirishte village town hall, Rogozen village town hall, Botevo village town hall, Burzina village town hall, Krivodol Municipality - Osen village town hall, Vratsa Municipality - Chiren village town hall, Chiren village town hall, Devene village town hall, Tri Kladentsi village town hall on the territory of which the investment proposal will be implemented.

3. With letters sent to the MoEW, the relevant municipalities and town halls notify that the information for assessing the need to carry out an EIA is disclosed

as a communication on their website (if they have one) and in a publicly accessible place for at least 14 days so that interested persons can express opinions; as a result no opinions, objections, positions were received.

4. At the time of preparation of this decision, no oral or written opinions or objections against the implementation of the investment proposal were expressed or filed at MoEW.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS AND MEASURES:

1. During the construction works:

1. The construction strip of the pipeline and the sites of the remaining equipment and elements of the IP must be timely secured in a manner preventing the entry of any animals and minimising the death risk.
2. The activities involving the preparation of the construction strip and the construction of the gas pipeline must start outside the bird breeding period (March-June).
3. The gas pipeline route must be restored in its initial condition by using a vegetation only that is characteristic for the region.
4. To conduct a detailed briefing of the participants in the construction activities in order to prevent impacts, such as damage and destruction of plant and animal species within the scope of the IP.
5. Timely informing the population in settlements close to the gas pipeline route about the upcoming construction schedule and related activities.
6. Coordination of the transport scheme and local municipalities and town halls with a view to limited crossing of construction equipment through populated settlements.
7. Maintenance of the used transport, installation and construction equipment according to the requirements of technical standards.
8. Application of good construction practices to minimise noise emissions - trucks serving the construction must move along pre-determined access roads and observe the permissible speed of movement; the construction equipment must not be allowed to stay idle.
9. Any works must be carried out only in daytime.
10. Avoiding the release of excessive levels of dust from the site - use of appropriate techniques to minimise dust emissions (e.g. water misting).
11. In rainy and muddy weather, when exiting the construction strip, trucks must be washed before entering the national transport network.
12. Avoiding the scattering of dust and loose construction materials outside the work sites (strips) - effective planning of transport activities and proper waste management.
13. Refuelling and maintenance of machines and waste collection must be carried out at designated places.
14. Do not allow unregulated storage of fuels and oils, waste and chemicals, as well as burning or other form of uncontrolled disposal of waste.
15. The generated household and construction waste must be collected, transported and treated in an organised manner.
16. To regulate safety and health measures at work - safety plan at work, instructions and briefings, work clothes and personal protective equipment, etc.
17. A technical design of the relevant facility must be prepared concerning the crossing of surface water bodies and the construction of facilities protecting against the harmful effects of water.
18. Timely revegetation of the construction strip must be carried out and, where necessary, stabilisation/strengthening of river banks.
19. Do not allow washing and servicing of vehicles and equipment in rivers and their floodplains.
20. Do not allow uncontrolled discharge of water from the gas pipeline hydro test into water bodies.
21. In the event that the sprinkling water for the temporary roads for the purpose of preventing dust emissions will be taken from a surface or underground water body, the relevant permits for water use must be obtained in advance.
22. Avoid mixing the removed humus layer with the poorer subhumus horizons.
23. To establish the exact locations of the underground infrastructure and mark them on-site at

the points of intersection with the gas pipeline route. This activity must be carried out jointly with representatives of underground infrastructure owners and operators.

24. Strict control in the process of pipe laying and welding and control of conditions that can lead to pipe corrosion.

25. The supply of chemical substances and mixtures must be accompanied by Safety Data Sheets (SDS) in Bulgarian language complying with the requirements of Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), as amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/830 and Regulation (EU) 2020/878.

26. The use of hazardous substances and mixtures must be carried out in accordance with the exposure control measures specified in the SDS and the instructions for safe use, including emergency discharge or spill measures.

27. Anticipating and conducting archaeological surveys to preserve the cultural heritage and archaeological monitoring.

II. During the operation:

1. The approach to the gas pipeline maintenance and the periodic visual inspection of the gas pipeline route (seasonal and after intense rainfall, storms, etc.) must be territorially limited within the limits of the easement, permanent facilities and access roads.

2. Preventive organisational, engineering and technical measures to reduce the probability of the occurrence and development of emergency events during the operation of the gas pipeline, which would generate health risk and environmental risk must be planned.

This Decision applies only to the specific submitted proposal and in its stated scope.

This decision concerning *Gas pipeline connecting Chiren UGS to the existing gas transmission network of Bulgartransgaz in the area of Butan village* does not repeal the obligations of the Contracting authority to comply with the requirements of the Environmental protection act and other special acts and regulations, and cannot serve as grounds for discharge of the liability under the current regulatory framework.

Pursuant to article 93(7) of the EPA, in case of change of the Contracting authority, of the investment proposal parameters or of any of the circumstances under which this Decision has been issued, the Contracting authority/the new Contracting authority must inform the Ministry of Environment and Water.

According to the provisions of article 93(8) of the EPA, the Decision shall lose its legal effect if, within 5 years from the date of its issuance, the implementation of the investment proposal has not commenced.

Pursuant to article 22(3) of the Ordinance on the terms and procedure for carrying out EIA, I assign to the director of the RIEW Vrana and Dunavski rayon the control over compliance with the conditions set in this Decision.

The Decision may be appealed before the Supreme Administrative Court within 14 days of its notification to the interested parties under the Administrative Procedure Code.

MINISTER: ROSITSA KARAMFILOVA

/signature and stamp/

Date: 26.04.2023