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RELEASE

Completion of the Pojorâta-Vatra Dornei natural gas transmission pipeline section

SNTGN Transgaz SA inaugurated today, 25 August 2022, Pojorâta - Vatra Dornei pipeline section, regarding the DN 300/DN 250 Frasin - Câmpulung Moldovenesc - Vatra Dornei natural gas transmission pipeline project. The event was attended by Mr NICOLAE-IONEL CIUCĂ, Prime Minister of Romania, Mr ION STERIAN, Director - General of SNTGN Transgaz SA, Mr GHEORGHE FLUTUR, President of the Suceava County Council, as well as representatives of the company's executive and administrative management, representatives of central and local public authorities.

The value of the works for the execution of the Pojorâta-Vatra Dornei natural gas transmission pipeline section is lei 17,346,413.30 without VAT (the equivalent of approximately EUR 3.5 million), and the works execution contract was signed with SC ROMINSTA SRL Cristești in 2020.

On this occasion, the **Prime Minister of Romania, Mr NICOLAE- IONEL CIUCĂ** declared:

“The Romanian Government considers as one of its top priorities both energy security and the improvement of the quality of life of its citizens and the creation of the conditions for the local economy development. The event we are attending today, the completion of the natural gas transmission pipeline works on the Pojorâta-Vatra Dornei section, stands as a proof of this commitment. Through the Government resolutions issued, this investment project benefited from the full support of the Romanian Government throughout the entire duration of the investment objective.

This investment, undertaken by Transgaz, allows the supply of natural gas to the area, the population and institutions, as well as the sustainable economic and social development of the zone. The value of the investment is significant, amounting to EUR 3.5 million, but it is more important what this investment represents. The completion of the Pojorâta - Vatra Dornei pipeline section creates the basis for the interconnection of the natural gas transmission system in the north-western part of the country (Bistrita consumption area) with the natural gas transmission system in the north-eastern part (Câmpulung Moldovenesc - Vatra Dornei consumption area), thus defining it as a project of national importance. This pipeline enables the increase of the quality of life for more than 35,000 Romanians, gathered in eight administrative-territorial units, the development of health, educational and cultural institutions. This investment will contribute to the economic and social growth and development of a significant geographical area - the north-eastern part of the country, to the improvement of the living conditions and quality of life of the inhabitants of the beautiful Dornelor area.

I congratulate Transgaz for the way it managed this investment project of national importance, for all the efforts made in the development of the gas infrastructure, I congratulate the central and local authorities and public institutions involved, for all the support given in the implementation of this strategic investment objective for the economic development of the area and of the country.`

The Director - General of SNTGN Transgaz, Mr ION STERIAN, stated:

`The pipeline route was very difficult to construct. But Transgaz has always managed to rise to the challenges faced and deliver results beyond expectations. Showing strategic vision and a correct understanding of the gas sector issues, for some time now we have been paying particular attention to the North-East of Romania and the developments of the National Transmission System here. The Pojorâta-Vatra Dornei pipeline section is no exception. It is also the proof of Transgaz's ability to plan and carry out the proposed investments aimed at increasing the living standards of the Romanians, developing the economy and contributing to the increase of the national energy security. I am glad to have received the support of the Romanian Government, the central and local public authorities and institutions and I am confident that this cooperation will be further strengthened in the future and I would like to assure that Transgaz will carry out its mission successfully, in the same way as it has done so far. Some important examples are the major strategic investment projects, such as the BRUA Phase 1 pipeline, the Ungheni-Chisinau pipeline, the NTS developments in North-East Romania, and all other investments in the expansion of the National Transmission System. We have always tenaciously pursued the goal of ensuring Romania's energy security and will continue to do so. The Pojorâta-Vatra Dornei pipeline section is just one of our company's projects that will bring natural gas closer to important economic and social areas of the country, develop the National Transmission System and contribute to increasing the quality of life and of the social and economic services in Romania.`

The President of the Suceava County Council, Mr. GHEORGHE FLUTUR, said:

`Suceava County Council welcomes the completion of the Pojorâta-Vatra Dornei natural gas pipeline section. It is a long-awaited and needed investment objective, which is particularly important for the local community, for the economic and social development of the county and for ensuring a higher quality of life for the people of this area. The Pojorâta-Vatra Dornei pipeline section is the last section of the DN 300/DN250 Frasin - Câmpulung Moldovenesc - Vatra Dornei natural gas transmission pipeline, with a length of 65.57 km, which was designed and partially built in 2005-2006 under the Utilities and Environment Programme at European Standards in Suceava County. In 2009, legal steps were taken for SNTGN TRANSGAZ SA to take over all the works executed under this programme and to continue the investment, the company commissioning the Frasin - Câmpulung Moldovenesc section in 2011, the Câmpulung Moldovenesc - Pojorâta section in 2017, and today, 25 August 2022, the last pipeline section, Pojorâta-Vatra Dornei. The Suceava County Council made sustained efforts to stimulate the construction of this pipeline and was permanently involved in this important project. I am glad that this investment was made and the citizens of this area can benefit from natural gas from now on and I assure all the people in Suceava that we will continue to do everything we can to increase the number of localities connected to the natural gas network.`

Project information

The DN 300/DN250 PN 40 Frasin - Câmpulung Moldovenesc - Vatra Dornei natural gas transmission pipeline with a length of 65.57 km was designed and partially constructed in 2005-2006 in Suceava County under the Utilities and Environment Programme, at European Standards. In 2009, legal steps were taken for the taking over by SNTGN TRANSGAZ SA of all the works performed under this programme.

After SNTGN TRANSGAZ SA took over the investment, the execution works for the DN 300/DN 250 Frasin - Câmpulung Moldovenesc - Vatra Dornei natural gas transmission pipeline were carried out in phases:

Phase I: the 30 km long **Frasin - Câmpulung Moldovenesc pipeline section** was commissioned in 2011;

Phase II: the 9.27 km long **Câmpulung Moldovenesc - Pojorâta pipeline section** was commissioned in December 2017;

Phase III: the 26.39 km long **Pojorâta - Vatra Dornei pipeline section** was completed in July 2022.

Total SRMP area flow = 25,700 m³/h (225 million m³/year).

Beneficiaries of the investment/social and economic profile

The planned route of the Pojorâta - Vatra Dornei natural gas transmission pipeline section is located on the administrative territories of **eight territorial - administrative units: Pojorâta, Sadova, Iacobenii, Dorna Arini, Saru Dornei, Dorna Căndrenilor, Fundu Moldovei and Vatra Dornei**, with an estimated number of **35,000 inhabitants, 12 secondary schools, 12 kindergartens, 5 high schools, school clubs, libraries, 3 hospitals and spa centres and many medical offices**.

The economic profile of the rural area: ecumenical and leisure tourism (there are dozens of agritourism guesthouses), wood processing, agriculture and shepherding, trade.

The implementation of this project contributes to economic growth measures and can also address a number of social needs in a significant geographical area - the north-eastern part of the country, including education (kindergartens, nurseries, educational institutions, university campuses that are not connected to gas), health (future regional hospitals, county, municipal and city hospitals, care homes and social centres), social protection and jobs.

At the same time, the project has a direct impact on climate change and environmental protection challenges, by significantly reducing timber harvesting in the northern part of the country, which represents more than two thirds of the national forest.

Until now requests for natural gas supply have been submitted by the municipalities of **Stulpicani, Ostra, Vama, Pojorâta, Fundu Moldovei, Izvoarele, Moldova-Sulița, Frumosu, Vatra Moldoviței, Moldovița, Vatra Dornei, Dorna Arini, Saru Dornei, Coșna and Poiana Stampei** along the route of the DN 300/DN 250 Frasin - Câmpulung Moldovenesc - Vatra Dornei gas pipeline.

THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT