

RWE is Prepared for Gas Transit from the West into Slovakia

- > **RWE is prepared to fully reverse the gas flow and partially open the delivery station Lanžhot**
- > **If Slovakia negotiates concrete volumes of natural gas with the European suppliers, RWE is prepared to begin with transit within four hours**

Prague, January 16, 2009 – Slovakia, afflicted by the gas crisis, could soon obtain further natural gas supplies through the RWE transit system. RWE is prepared to transit the gas through the area of Czech Republic from Germany into Slovakia. Prime ministers Mirek Topolánek and Robert Fico, together with the boss of RWE Transgas Martin Hermann, have agreed on possible execution of transit in Prague today.

If Slovakia negotiates concrete volumes of natural gas with the European suppliers, RWE is prepared to begin with transit within four hours. The company RWE Transgas Net has prepared one of the transit lines in such a way as to enable supplies into Slovakia. Even though our transit network has originally been designed for transit from the East into the West, we have succeeded in finding a solution as how to fully reverse the gas flow. For the first time in history, gas can be transported through the delivery station Lanžhot towards Slovakia.

Natural gas will be transported into Slovakia by RWE from the volume which will be available to SPP at the frontiers of Czech Republic and Germany. From there, gas will be transported through the area of Czech Republic by so far free capacities of the transporter RWE Transgas Net to the frontier delivery station in Lanžhot and from there further into the Slovak network.

From Wednesday, RWE Transgas supplies Slovakia with one million cubic meters of natural gas more from its reserves in Slovak underground storages Láb. Thus, the exchange operation between RWE Transgas and SPP reaches a daily volume of four millions cubic meters of gas.

The company RWE Gas Slovensko which supplies with gas wholesale customers in Slovakia since January, is able to ensure for them supplies in the agreed amounts. With regard to the declared state of emergency in Slovakia, customers must however demand reduced supplies volumes.

The situation regarding supply of Czech customers of RWE continues to be steady. Gas is still flowing via the northern route into the Czech Republic and the foreign supplies are being completed by the drawings from the underground storages. All our customers become natural gas in the full volume. The yesterday's consumption reached 48.2 millions cubic meters, today we estimate, in consideration of the warming, consumption reduction down to 45 million cubic meters.

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The RWE Group manages its business activities in the Czech Republic through RWE Transgas which is responsible for the purchase, sales, transit and wholesale of natural gas. The sales of RWE to more than 2.3 million customers are made possible through regional gas companies Severočeská plynárenská, Západočeská plynárenská, Středočeská plynárenská, Jihomoravská plynárenská, Severomoravská plynárenská and Východočeská plynárenská. The RWE Group in the Czech Republic consists of 21 companies.