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# Current Intelligence Report Circular

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**CLASSIFICATION: DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

**Report Topic:** Russo-Ukrainian War  
**Production Date:** 5 September 2022  
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## Russia Shuts Down Nord Stream 1 Pipeline Citing Leak

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On Wednesday, 31 AUG, Russian energy company Gazprom shut off the gas supply to the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, which is responsible for over 30% of Europe's total Russian gas imports. The company stated that the pipeline was originally being shut down for "three days of maintenance". However, on Friday, 2 SEP, the company revealed it had identified malfunctions in the pipeline that would further postpone the restoration of the flow of gas to the pipeline. Gazprom stated an oil leak had been detected at its Portovaya compressor station. Gazprom did not provide a timetable for restoration. Moscow has cited Western sanctions following its invasion of Ukraine for the recurring maintenance of the pipeline. However, Amid growing concerns of a winter energy crisis, some European Union (EU) officials have accused Russia of using energy as a weapon. Michael Roth, chair of the German parliamentary foreign affairs committee, tweeted: "This is part of Russia's psychological war against us".  
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### CMCD Note

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We assess with high confidence that Russia is highly likely utilizing the closure of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline as a method of retaliating against the Western sanctions of Russian businesses and individuals and ongoing Western support for Ukraine. Putin has claimed that Russia is not utilizing energy as a weapon and is instead blaming the sanctions for the gas supply issues. It is highly likely that Russia will continue to keep the pipeline closed as long as Western sanctions persist. It is also highly likely that American and European efforts to find alternative energy sources will mitigate but not wholly prevent an energy shortage.

### Sources

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