

Flooded Tamnava open pit mines

17 May 2014

Tamnava OPMs “Veliki Crljeni” and „Tamnava-West Field” are completely flooded. The river Kolubara spilled over the dam and the water got into the two OPMs. The hardest situation is on the OPM “Tamnava-West Field, that is the most important for the “Kolubara” production and in which the most up to date machinery and equipment is operating as the part of the production process. OPMs Field “B” and Filed “D” as well as the operational units and facilities of the Branch “Prerada” (Processing Plant) are partly flooded. The works on recovery are ongoing. According to the words of Mr. Milorad Grčić, the director of the Mining Basin “Kolubara”, in this moment the most important thing is that there are no fatalities and that good and right decision was made to stop the production right before the water flows started getting in the OU. All the employees were timely transported to the safe locations. When talking about the equipment, we cannot give any estimation yet. One thing that we can surely say is that nine excavators are completely flooded and that material damage is enormous.

The representatives of the management of MB “Kolubara”, the representatives of the Trade Union and the directors of Production Units together with the experts from the Institute “Jaroslav Černi” held the meeting and the first plans and the strategy were made in order to find the way of slowing down and stopping the floods. According to the estimations that can be made now, about 45 million m³ of water got into the area of the OPM “Veliki Crljeni” and about 100 million m³ got into the area of the “West Field”. Thanks to the good cooperation and coordination with the EPS Head office, with the Ministry in charge and the colleagues from “Kostolac” we are going to receive the pumps for pumping the water out, and we also expect the pumps from Germany and Czech Republic. For the time being we succeeded to rehabilitate parts of the OU “Prerada” (Processing Plant) and we continue with the recovery of the flooding consequences.

It is expected that until the end of this month, the production process of the Fiels “B” and “D” is going to start again and if the situation gets better the transport of coal towards TPP NT in the amount of 45000 tons of coal daily is planned. That is a half of the usual daily production.