**MINUTE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING MEETING**
**HELD IN THE TOWN OF ORAVIȚA, ROMANIA,**
**IN COMPLIANCE WITH ART.3 ITEM 8 OF THE ESPOO CONVENTION**
**FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT PROPOSAL: CONSTRUCTION OF TPP KOSTOLAC B UNIT B3, BY SERBIA**

**1. Location and participants at the public hearing.**

Today, 31st of August 2017, at 12:00 hrs, at "Casa de Cultură Mihai Eminescu", 1 December 1918 street, no. 3, town ORAVIȚA, Caraș Severin County, Romania, a public hearing meeting was conducted for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA-R) of the investment proposal **"CONSTRUCTION OF TPP KOSTOLAC B UNIT B3"**, by Serbia.

In accordance with the Article 3 item 8 of the Convention about the environmental impact assessment in a trans-boundary context (Espoo Convention), the Serbian delegation as described below in Annex 1, participated in the public hearing meeting required by the Romanian Ministry of Environment for this investment proposal.

The meeting was opened by Ms. Carmen Sorescu, Director Executive, Environmental Protection Agency Caraș Severin who welcomed the participants, and pointed out some general aspects regarding the EIA procedure for this project. She thanked the Mayor of Oravița for his support in organizing and hosting the meeting.

In the opening part Mr. Purec Sebastian, subprefect of Caraș Severin Prefecture, also welcomed the participants and pointed out the interest of the Prefecture and other institutions in the public hearing of this project.

Next, she gave the floor to Ms. Doina Catrinoiu - representative of National Environmental Protection Agency and Ms. Dorina Mocanu, General Director of the Impact Assessment and Pollution Control General Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Moderator of the meeting.
Ms. Mocanu presented the agenda of the meeting:

1. presentation of the secretariat, provided by a team from the Environmental Protection Agency Caraș Severin.
2. presentation of the Serbian and Romanian delegations.
3. short presentations by Serbia of:
   - the proposed investment
   - the environmental impact assessment focused on the trans-boundary impact in Romanian influenced areas and mitigation measures
5. break and sign-up of speakers to the secretariat
6. questions and answers following the registration order of speakers
7. closing of the public hearing
8. minute drafting and signing

Next, Mrs. Mocanu introduces the members of the Romanian delegation and invited the head of the Serbian delegation, Mr. Alexandar Vesic, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection to introduce its members.

Mr. Vesic welcomed the participants, and thanked the local authorities for their support in organizing the meeting. He pointed out the long and fruitful colaboration with Romania on different projects in the frame of Espoo Convention. He also spoke in favour of a good colaboration with NGO's. Then, he mentioned the major importance of this project for

Serbia, and, given this importance, the Serbian delegation was so numerous (33 members) to be able to respond to any possible question from the participants.

Both Romanian and Serbian delegation members are listed in Annex 1 to the minute.

After the presentation of both Serbian and Romanian delegations, Ms. Doina Catrinoiu, Head of the Romanian Delegation and Vicepresident of the National Environmental Protection Agency, welcomed the audience and presented the purpose of the public hearing, general provisions of art.20 to the Order no. 135/2010 and the Espoo Convention and aspects regarding the involvment and contribution of the public in order to achieve the purpose of the public hearing.

Next, Ms. Dorina Mocanu, invited the Serbian delegation to do the two presentations on the agenda:

1. the first Presentation was about the proposed investment **"CONSTRUCTION OF TPP KOSTOLAC B UNIT B3"**.
The main technical characteristics and specifications of the TPP Kostolac were presented.
2. the second Presentation was about the EIA Report.

After these presentations, a 20-minutes break was announced by the moderator, who invited the attendees willing to ask questions to submit their questions in writing to the secretariat, during this break.

The presentations are attached to the present minutes.

The meeting was resumed after the break.

The moderator invited the signed-up speakers to express their questions following the order of registration.

After each question, the moderator invited the Serbian delegation to give the appropriate answer.

The questions and answers are written down in Annex 2, which is part of the minute.

The questions and answers section for NGO Bankwatch is attached at the end of the document in Annex 3.

**Annex 2**

Discussions: Questions from the public and responses

1. Mr. Piroi Ion, Professor, PhD, "Eftimie Murgu" University, Resita:
- Kostolac CTE yield is close to the theoretical value

Questions (in person):
a) Are all the legal provisions of the Kyoto agreement respected?
b) What is the impact of CO2 emissions (from Kostolac B3) on global warming?

Answers:
After a brief introduction to the issue of greenhouse gas emissions, the following points are made:
- Serbia complies with all EU legislation as it is in EU accession negotiations
- the B3 project complies with the provisions of EU legislation transposed into national law
- Unit B3 will contribute to reducing emissions in the future by replacing old capacities.
- Serbia is among the top 10 countries that have drafted a CO2 reduction plan under the Paris Agreement.
- Unit B3 will work according to the most rigorous provisions for TPP, in line with the best technological solutions.
- For the assessment of the impact on Romania, the modelling of the dispersion of the pollutants based on the multi-annual meteorological data (about 8000 hourly values for certain parameters, for 3 years) was used and during the most unfavourable periods of operation of the TPP.
- In these unfavorable conditions the values resulting from the modeling are half of the VLE.
- The Technical Commission of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia has asked the beneficiary to verify all the parameters.

2. Mr. Munteanu Gheorghe, chief commissioner of the Environmental Guard CJ Caraş Severin

Questions:
a) if in the event of an accident the units B1, B2 and the next B3 are interdependent and can be stopped?
b) What would be the cross-border impact in the event of a technical accident?
c) After increasing the capacity from 9 to 12 million tons/year, where will the tailings from the Drmno quarry be stored and in what amount will it be, and what is the possibility of pollution with dust particles?

Answers:
Introduction:
- Serbia is irreversibly committed to the EU accession process and is aware of its obligations as a candidate country to the EU.
- the prerequisite for the opening of Chapter 27 of the pre-accession Treaty (representing 30% of the total accession obligations) was the drafting of a document on the implementation in old units of environmental protection measures for industrial pollution.
- Serbia will certainly ask for a transition period (grace).
- mistakes can not be accepted when designing new units

Answer to question 1:
- The SEVESO Directive is applied to Kostolac, and a chemical accident protection plan has been developed.
- Serbian legislation provides for a longer-term Seveso procedure for obtaining the agreement for this plan.
- Unit B3 will receive the agreement according to the Seveso Directive three months before putting it into service.
- Seveso's independent technical committee is made up of at least 10 people in different areas.
- the committee found that the most serious accidents at TPP had a local character.
- Although the Seveso Directive does not regulate air filter accidents, Serbia carries out this risk assessment for each unit.
- Prior to the putting into service of Unit B3, this assessment will be made available to the Romanian party.

Answer to question 2:
- The Drmno quarry entered service in 1985
- In the first 5 years, the waste was dumped out of the quarry, and later, after the exploitation gaps were created, the tailings dumped into the interior of the quarry, while the outer deposit was returned to the agricultural circuit.
- by increasing the production by 3 million tons / year, only the dynamics of the exploitation (scraping and dumping) will increase, the space of 200 meters between the working front and the dump will guarantee the storage of the tailings within the quarry for a 2052 horizon (when the quarrying is completed); the tailings quantity will be 1.4 billion tons to a production of 290 million tons of coal.

3. Mrs. Hesser Corina, Department of Public Health Caraş Severin

Following the analysis of the Environmental Impact Study, the water quality of the Danube River was modified in the mixing zone with the wastewater from the Kostolac TPP, by increasing the values of some parameters beyond the limits allowed by the legislation in force: microbiological, nitrates, nitrites, phenols , heavy metals.

Questions:
a) What additional measures will be taken to improve the quality of Danube water, which is a natural bathing area, used by people living in recreational areas downstream of the Waste Water Mixing Area from TPP Kostolac ?
b) how can be prevented the risk factors for illness?
c) can the food chain be influenced by irrigation of Danube water crops, or fishing?

Answers:
- the current state of Danube water quality is a public document, which can be consulted on the site of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia.
- It is noted that Serbia only purifies 8% of the wastewater (obligation assumed under Chapter 27 of the pre-accession Treaty)
- at Unit B3, the design of a sewage plant is planned for all wastewater from the plant; the same type of installation will also be built at the old Kostolac A and B units; the effect of these facilities will be to improve the quality of wastewater; these facilities will be funded by pre-accession funds, for which Serbia is awaiting support from Romania.
- Danube water quality will decrease insignificant given its high flow rate.
- the water quality of the main courses - the Danube, Sava, Mora is monitored and the results can be consulted on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia and reported to the EC.

4. Mr. Zaharia Constantin, Hydro eng., Hydro Expert

Questions:
In the area of the Danube cluster there is a 10 degrees Celsius heating.
- which will be the polutants dispersion of the chimney (180 m in height), in km, on the territory of Romania?
- Recommendation: to monitor air pollutant emissions in order to avoid the social costs associated with non-compliance or shutdown of coal-fired power plants.
- are there hydrogeological studies on negative impacts on deep underground waters (300-500 m)?

Answers:
- Unit B3 is not in operation, and the impact of emissions on the territory of Romania is estimated by dispersion modeling.
- non-compliant power plants in Romania have not been switched off, they have a transition period, penalties due to non-compliance are not known.
- the temperature increase in the region is a global phenomenon to which all sources contribute, including the Kostolac plant, but only the plant's contribution can not be evaluated separately.
- Serbia does not monitor deep underground waters (300-500 m)

5. Mr. Sturza Popovici Cornel, engineer, president of the Ecological Collaboration Group GEC Nera.

From a technical point of view, the EIA report is well-drafted, but the cross-border impact is treated briefly, not mentioning the localities of Socol, Pojejena, Baziaş, within a radius of 15 km from the B3 Unit at TPP Kostolac.
The modeling of the dispersion is well done, but what is the frequency of the winds that sweep in the direction of the Socol and Pojejena communes and which could carry dust and gas on their territory? In the conclusions of the EIA Report there should be such information in order to have a clear picture.

Answers:
- the Romanian party states that the answers to these questions are part of the EIA Report and that Romania has requested the application of Article 7 of the Espoo Convention on post-project monitoring, the air / water monitoring reports to be transmitted annually to Romania.

6. Mr. Catalin Nagy, Banat Water Basin Administration

Questions:
a) can there be presented a spatial distribution of the chemical pollution of Danube with water cooling water? Such modeling is done for air, it should also be done for water.
b) What is the potential impact of this pollution, especially on aquatic biodiversity, which could affect the entire Danube sector and the adjacent natural areas?

Answers:
- Serbia's competent authorities for waters agreed to this project.
- Unit B3's contribution will be another 30% compared to the current situation.
- in relation to the admissible increase by 3 degrees Celsius of the Danube's water temperature (cypridic waters), in the mixing zone, only an increase of maximum 0,5 ° C was calculated; the impact on aquatic biodiversity is poor, and fish tend to crowd in hot water areas.

- Serbia is bound to apply the best technical solutions, otherwise it will incur penalties.
- For this project, solutions are already in place in line with the latest BAT / BREFs in the EU, and more rigorous values will be implemented with minimal effort.

7. Mr. Viorel Roman, counselor EPA Caraş Severin

The resulting amount of ash will be huge and its management will be done either by commercial means or by storage in specially designed boxes.

Question:
How will the ash be marketed ?

Answer:
Ash is already marketed for road builders.

Conclusions:

The Romanian moderator thanked for participation and declared the public hearing had come to the end.
All statements and opinions have been noted in the Minute, which are approved by both parties, through the competent bodies in the field of environmental protection.
Thus, the public hearing meeting was closed.

The Public hearing took 4 hours, between 12 noon and 16 pm.

The Minute was prepared and signed in three original copies in English at Oravița, on 31st of August 2017.

Serbian Party,

Aleksandar Vesic,

Assistant Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection

Romanian Party,

Doina Catrinoiu,

Vicepresident of the National Environmental Protection Agency

Dorina Mocanu

General Director of the Impact Assessment and Pollution Control General Directorate, Ministry of Environment

**Annex 1**

**List of members from Romanian Delegation**

**Ministry of Environment (ME)**
1. Dorina Mocanu - General Director, Impact Assesment and Pollution Control General Directorate - Moderator
2. Daniela Pineta - Head of EIA Office, Impact Assesment and Pollution Control General Directorate
3. Aureliu Dumitrescu - Councellor, EIA Office, Impact Assesment and Pollution Control General Directorate

**National Environmental Protection Agency**
1. Doina Catrinoiu - Vicepresident of the National Environmental Protection Agency, Head of Romanian Delegation

**Ministry of Energy**
- Dan Andrei Mândru, Councellor, General Directorate for Energy Policies

**Local Environmental Protection Agency Caraș Severin**
1. Carmen Sorescu - Executive Director
2. Vodiță Marius - Head of the Authorization Department
3. Iosif Plachi - Councellor, Authorization Department
4. Viorel Roman - Councellor, Monitoring Department
5. Cătălina Alin - Councellor, Authorization Department

**Oravița City Hall**
1. Ursu Dumitru, Mayor of the Oravița town
2. Neamțu Valeria, expert reviewer, Oravița City Hall

**Caraș Severin County Prefecture**
1. Purec Sebastian, subprefect

**Caraș Severin County Council**
1. Popovici Ionuț, vice-president

**List of representatives from Serbian Delegation:**

**Ministry of Environmental Protection**
1. Aleksandar Vesic- Assistant Minister
2. MSc. Sabina Ivanovic-Head of Department for EIA
3. Zoran Veljkovic-Senior advisor in EIA Department
4. Miroslav Tosovic-Head of Group for SEA
5. Darinka Milovanovic-Lawyer in the Sector of Planning and Management in the Environment

**Members (experts) of Technical commission**
1. Phd. Mladjan Micevic, chemistry engineer
2. Phd. Aleksandar Jovovic, mechanical engineer
3. MSc. Milutin Nikolic, mechanical engineer
4. Slavica Rsovac, engineer of technology

5. Bratislav Krstic, engineer of technology

**Ministry of Mining and Energy**

1. MSc. Mirjana Filipovic - State Secretary of the Ministry of Mining and Energy
2. Vesna Stojanovic- Head of Department in the Power Sector
3. Jelena Milenkovic- Head of Department of Geological Exploration

**EXPERT TEAM FOR EIA STUDY DESIGNING Energoproject Entel**

1. MSc. Djordjina Milovanovic- TEAM LIDER
2. Svetlana Kovacevic, mechanical engineer
3. Dragan Mitrovic, mechanical engineer

**PUBLIC ENTERPRISE" ELEKTROPRIVREDA SRBIJE"**

1. Vladimir Markovic - Head of Key Investment Projects Department
2. Ilija Cairovic- Senior Project Manager
3. Milos Stojanovic- Key Investment Projects Portfolio Manager
4. Predrag Djordjevic- Senior Project Manager
5. Larisa Radovic-Project Manager
6. Ana Djuric, -Permits and Approvals Associate
7. Dejan Vuksanovic,- Head of the Project Preparation Division
8. MSc. Aleksandar Jakovljevic- Head of the Sector for Strategy, Business Development and Regulatory Relations
9. Milan Jakovljevic-Head of the Sector for Energy Efficiency and Environment in coal production
10. Zoran Stanojevic- Head of the Directorate of Electricity Production in TPP KOSTOLAC
11. Predrag Cvijanovic- Head of Department of Environment in TPP KOSTOLAC
12. Jovana Sejat- engineer for Environment
13. Dijana Doko- Interpreter (from Serbian/to Romanian)
14. Ljubica Gruicic- Interpreter (from Serbian/to Romanian)
15. Srdjan Bugaric - Leading expert associate for external communication, preparation and organization of projects
16. Predrag Djurkovic, Associate for Public Relations
17. Phd.Milka Domazet- Project Manager

Questions and answers section for NGO Bankwatch

**QUESTION 1**

Bearing in mind that on 17 August 2017, the new LCP BREF standards (best available techniques for large combustion plants) were published in the Official Journal of the European Union, as well as the fact that Kostolac B3 will fall under **new plants** (under the LCP BREF definition, this is a plant which received an integrated environmental permit after the LCP BREF document has been published), we consider that the Kostolac B3 project should demonstrate whether it is possible and whether there are intentions to implement these standards already at this stage.

**ANSWER 1**

Unit B3 was designed in accordance with the current requirements of the regulations adopted by the Republic of Serbia on the basis of the current European directives and signed international agreements.

By signing the Energy Community Treaty, the Republic of Serbia has undertaken, *inter alia*, to apply certain regulations in the field of environmental protection. In the field of air protection, the obligations applying to the new unit Kostolac B3 are related to the implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive - Chapter III as of 1 January 2018. The new unit was designed to operate by complying with the ELVs prescribed by IED - Chapter III, or the associated Annex V, which practically means that it complies with the strictest ELVs applicable to new combustion plants.

The Republic of Serbia is in the process of EU accession, which implies the obligation to align its national legislation with the relevant EU regulations, including environmental regulations. In addition to transposing EU regulations into national legislation, during the negotiation process, deadlines will be defined for individual plants to comply with the relevant EU regulations.

In addition, it should be noted that the competent authorities, the project developer and its designers, are aware of the constant changes in the field of environmental protection, especially air protection, caused by introducing new technologies, and have, therefore, anticipated possible improvements to the plant at the lowest possible cost. This is possible because the technologies envisioned for unit B3 are in line with the newly adopted BAT conclusions for the LCP, so that potentially more stringent ELVs can be achieved without modifying the basic technological solutions, with certain commercially available upgrades.

**QUESTION 2**

Section 3.3.6 of the Study - *Overview of the system for the of treatment waste substances and emissions into the environment* contains an outline of the limit values and standards currently in force in the Republic of Serbia. We do not consider that the Study shows in a credible way that Kostolac B3 will comply with these limit values.

**ANSWER 2**

Section 3.3.6 of the Study, the first part of the said section (Part A. *Overview of the Criteria applied to define Waste Substances Treatment Methods*) provides an overview

of the emission limit values for pollutants. The presented limit values are part of the design parameters for each of the emission reduction systems foreseen under the unit B3 design.

The following part of Section 3.3.6 (Part B *Treatment of Gaseous Waste Substances*) contains a description of the technical solutions for achieving the specified emission limit values as well as the input and output parameters of certain devices demonstrating the compliance with the defined design conditions, as follows:

- Furnace dimensions and thermal calculations show that $NO_x$ emissions of 200 $mg/m^3$ are achieved by primary measures;
- Table 3.3.6-9 gives the basic material and energy amounts of the FGD plant;
- Table 3.3.6-11 gives the basic design characteristics of dry and wet electrostatic precipitators;
- Table 3.3.6-13 provides the characteristics of de-dusting facilities inside the coal and limestone delivery systems;
- Table 3.3.6-12 shows air emissions of pollutants through flue gases from unit B3.

Wastewater discharged into the recipient from unit B3 will be treated in a common wastewater treatment plant for all three units. The tender documentation for the construction of a common plant prescribes the limit values (water quality after treatment) as well as Tables 3.3.6-1 to 3.3.6-4 (Reference 8 in Part C *Treatment of Liquid Waste Substances*).

The treatment of solid waste substances is covered by the landfill design, Section 3.3.4 of the Study, in particular the section "*Soil and Groundwater Protection against Landfill Impact*", outlining the designing criteria and describing the design solutions.

**QUESTION 3**

Concerning the existence of a separate study analysing the environmental impact of the Drmno open cast mine (as suggested by the answer of the Serbian side published on the Ministry of Environment website) - why this study was not made available to the interested public and why it is not covered by the EIA consultations in a transboundary context together with the unit B3 construction project? As stated in the previous set of comments, we consider that environmental impact of these two activities should be assessed cumulatively - both the impact of the new unit construction and the Drmno mine expansion. In order to provide additional fuel for the unit, open cast mine expansion is mandatory - which means that these two projects are interconnected. The Espoo Convention Implementation Committee decided that open cast mine expansion belongs to the activities listed in Annex 1 of the Convention and that possible significant transboundary impact cannot be excluded[1].

**ANSWER 3**

All remarks and questions raised by regulatory bodies and NGOs mention the Drmno open cast mine expansion.

[1] Report of the Implementation Committee on its 36th Session ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2016/4 https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2016/EIA/WG/ece_cp_teia_2016-9_report_of_36th_session_of_IC_e.pdf

The change of the open cast mine capacity does not entail the change in its geometry. To be exact, mining boundaries will not be altered, while mining operations will continue inside the mining boundaries defined by the 2009 Detailed Design for the capacity of 9 million tons of coal per year. This means that there are no new occupied areas and that the dumping level and method will not change. However, in the foreseeable future, the works schedule will change, i.e. operation intensity of the machinery, which is why, *inter alia*, the new ECS system is procured from the Chinese loan extended for the project in question. Coal mining and transport will remain unchanged. All structures from the Detailed Design have been covered by the Spatial Plan of Special Purpose, for which a strategic environmental assessment has been prepared.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Study for Unit B3 also took into account open cast mining operations under the section analysing the cumulative impacts of unit B3 operation with other facilities. Furthermore, capacity increase, i.e. impact of combusting higher coal amounts, was also analysed by the above study.

By analysing the presented calculation results relating to the environmental impact assessment of the mining operations, it may be concluded that particulate matter pollution is the most dominant impact of the mine, as well as that the impact will be felt in direct vicinity of the mining operations, i.e. around the mine. This results from the characteristics of the pollution sources created during coal mining (ground sources of low intensity and energy). In this way, the settlements located along the mine boundary, the villages of Drmno and Klicevac, are potentially affected. By applying the particulate matter dispersion reduction measures, prescribed as mandatory for the Drmno mine by the Ministry of Environment, pollution levels will be significantly lower than the limit values specified by the current regulations. On the other hand, the impact of dust emitted from the unit B3 stack is extremely low, both due to the emission method (high stack with high output flue gas flow rate), and the actual low dust emission (<10 mg/m$^3$ of flue gas). For this reason, the forecasted air concentrations around the TPP, in the area up to a distance of several tens of kilometres from the stack, do not even reach 5% of the limit value for ambient air quality.

In view of the above, we consider that the cumulative impact of unit B3 and Drmno mine operations is negligible, as well as their transboundary impact inside Romania.

**QUESTION 4**

We demand the publishing of the zoning documentation (maps) showing how the Drmno mine will expand, in which direction, on what area and in what time period.

**ANSWER 4**

The requested zoning documentation regarding the Drmno mine (Referral maps No. 2 and No. 6) is part of the Spatial Plan of Special Purpose for the Kostolac Coal Basin, which became effective in January 2013, while the complete plan including the maps was published on 4 January 2013 on the website of the Serbian Spatial Planning Agency (http://www.rapp.gov.rs/sr-Latn-CS/rudarski-baseni/cid296-83227/prostorni-plan-podrucja-posebne-namene-kostolackog-ugljenog-basena) where it is available today.

**QUESTION 5**

Section 6.3.12 of the EIA Study - *Transboundary Pollution*, page 404, states that "according to the analysed multi-year meteorological data, occurrence of south-eastern winds is unlikely (frequency of about 6%)". **Please send us this study.**

**ANSWER 5.**

There is no special meteorological study. The EIA Study for unit B3 was informed by a set of meteorological parameters for the Veliko Gradiste meteorological station, gathered between 2010 and 2014, based on hourly values (8760 sets of weather parameters for every year), purchased from the authorised institution performing meteorological measurements (Hydro-meteorological Office of Serbia), as explained in Section 6.3.1. Air Quality Impacts, Part A Flue Gas Impacts, *Input Parameters for Calculations*.

A sub-program of the master software used to calculate pollutant dispersion inside the near field, calculates the distribution of wind probability along different directions (wind rose), shown in Figure 6.3.1-4 of the Study in the form of a medium wind rose for the period 2010-2014. This figure demonstrates that southwest wind has a probability of about 6%. In general, it can be seen that third-quadrant winds blowing into the territory of Romania are least probable.

**QUESTION 6**

Table 6.3.13-1: *Summary evaluation of environmental impacts during regular operation of Unit 3 TPP Kostolac B* (page 405) indicates that population health impacts are of regional reach and moderate consequences (which is the highest level of consequences shown in the table ). *Population health status monitoring* is listed as an impact reduction measure. **Please specify which authorities are responsible for this type of monitoring in Romania, what is the mechanism applied to analyse monitoring results regarding the Kostolac B3 project - how the exposure to transboundary emissions transported to Romania will be linked with the identified health status of the population, and from which reference baseline does the monitoring start?**

**ANSWER 6**

The health status of a population is a result of numerous and various factors. Therefore, it is difficult to determine the precise proportion and impact of individual facilities on its health, especially in cases where there is no evidence of pollutant emission exceedance, with possible detrimental effects on health.

Furthermore, please note that Table 6.3.13-1 indicates that, according to the adopted methodology, the intensity of health impact is marked as "low", and that the overall result, rated as "medium", is caused by the long-term operation of the thermal power plant, as well as its by impact on the area beyond the boundaries of the facility itself.

Based on the Espoo Convention requirements, Serbia has undertaken to report to Romania on air and water quality measurement results recorded at the existing measuring points around the Kostolac TPP (post-monitoring) through relevant institutions.

Moreover, Serbia monitors the health status of its population, by analysing the occurrence of certain illnesses depending on the demographic structure and other

factors, according to the methodology established by the World Health Organization. Results are presented in annual reports available to the public.

We also assume that Romania monitors the health status of its population in a similar way.