



CERTIFIED TRANSLATION FROM THE SERBIAN LANGUAGE

Coat of Arms of the Republic of Serbia
Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Number: 353-02-00124/2017-16
Date: 28 September 2017
Belgrade

Pursuant to Articles 18, 24 and 33 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 135/04, 36/09), Art. 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia 102/07), Article 192, paragraph 1 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure ("Official Gazette of FRY", number 33/97, 31/01 and "Official Gazette of RS", No. 30/10), Article 213, paragraph 1 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 18/16) Article 23, paragraph 2 of the Law on State Administration ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 79/05, 101/07, 95/10 and 99/14), Article 5a of the Law on Ministries ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 44/14, 14/15, 54/15 and 96/15 – state law and 62/17) and independent Article 13, paragraph 2 and 6 of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Ministries ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 62/17), acting on the request of the holder of the project "PE ELEKTROPRIVREDA SRBIJE", Sector for key investment projects from Belgrade, Carice Milice 2, Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Minister, brings this

DECISION

1. Approval is given to the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the project for construction of a new block B3 at the site of TPP KOSTOLAC, at CP 303 CM Kostolac-village, the territory of the City of Požarevac.
2. The project holder shall implement the environmental protection measures provided for in the Impact Assessment Study referred to in paragraph 1 of this Decision (Chapter 8 of the Study).
3. The project holder shall also comply with other conditions and the consent of the competent authorities and the organization in accordance with the special law.
4. The project holder shall implement the environmental impact monitoring program - monitoring system (Chapter 9 of the Study).
5. The obligation of the project holder is to provide for the implementation of the post-project analysis to Romania through monitoring activities, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 7. ESPOO Convention.
6. Air monitoring:
 - The project holder shall submit annual reports to the potentially affected party by the implementation of this project - Romania, on the monitoring of emissions of

polluting substances into the air, which is measured by the operator of the "PE ELEKTROPRIVREDA SRBIJE" by the existing network of equipment for monitoring the quality of air.

7. Water monitoring:
 - The project holder shall send annual reports to the potentially affected party by the implementation of this project - Romania, on the monitoring of the Danube River waters, upstream and downstream of TPP Kostolac B, where the measurements are carried out at the existing points of the national network for water monitoring as well monitoring reports carried out by "PE ELEKTROPRIVREDA SRBIJE" after the commissioning of block B3 (frequency of monitoring - once a month, report frequency - once a year).
8. The project holder shall start the implementation of the project within two years from the date of receipt of the decision on approval. The decision and subject Impact Assessment Study are an integral part of the technical documentation needed to obtain a permit or approval for the start of the project.
9. A special conclusion will be drawn on the costs of the proceedings.

R e a s o n i n g

This body was delivered the request of the project holder, PE ELEKTROPRIVREDA SRBIJE, Sector for key investment projects from Belgrade, Carice Milice 2, registered under the number 353-02-00124/2017-16 of 20 January 2017 for giving consent to the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the project of construction of a new block B3 at the site TPP KOSTOLAC, on CP 303 CM Kostolac-village, the territory of the City of Požarevac, foreseen by the Spatial Plan of the Special Purpose Region of the Kostolac Coal Basin ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", 1/2013), in accordance with the location conditions no. 350-02-00112/2017-14 of 17 May 2017 issued by the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure.

The Study was prepared by ENERGOPROJEKT ENTEL JSC from Belgrade.

The procedure was implemented by the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment enabling participation of interested bodies/organizations and interested public through printed media (ad in the daily newspaper "Blic" dated 14 February 2017) and through the official website of the Ministry.

<http://www.eko.minpolj.gov.rs/obavestenja/procena-uticaja-na-zivotnu-sredinu/>.

Bearing in mind that the project is on the List of activities of Annex I under point 2 Thermoelectric plants and other combustion plants with a heat output of 300MW of ESPOO Convention, and in accordance with the statement of the Romanian side, that is, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests of Romania, to participate at the stage of granting consent at the level of the impact assessment study, the document was translated into English, posted on the website of the Ministry and forwarded to Romania on February 10, 2017. In accordance with the provisions of Art. 5 of the aforementioned Law, the Serbian side proposed to the Romanian side the organization of a presentation and public hearing in the territory of Romania, if considered necessary. At the request of the Romanian side, the deadline for submitting comments was extended for a month (from 17 March 2017 to 17 April 2017).

Pursuant to Article 22 and Articles 23 and 24 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 135/04 and 36/09), the Technical Commission for assessment of the Study on Impact Assessment was established, by Decision No. 353-02-00124/2017-16 of 23 February 2017. Members of the Technical Commission are:

- mr Sabina Ivanović, Head of Impact Assessment, President
- dr Mladen Mićević, B.Sc. Eng. Chemistry, member
- dr Aleksandar Jovović, B.Sc. Eng. Mechanics, member
- mr Milutin Nikolić, B.Sc. Eng. Mechanics, member
- Bratislav Krstić, B.Sc. Eng. Technology, member
- Slavica Rsovac, B.Sc. Eng. Technology, member

Pursuant to Article 20 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment, public insight, organized presentation and conducted public hearing on the subject Study have been provided (48 participants - representatives of the Citizens' Association "Eko zona Kovin" and "Zdravo Drmno", NGO CEKOR, representatives LCO Klenovnik and LCO Selo Kostolac, representatives of the City Administration of Požarevac, EPS, EP Entel, representative of the Mining Institute Belgrade, as well as members of the Technical Commission), held on March 9, 2017 in the premises of the City Administration of Požarevac.

Complaints in written form and within the legal deadline were submitted by:

- NGO CEKOR from Subotica
- Citizens' Association "Eko zona Kovin" from Kovin
- "Zdravo Drmno" Association from Drmno
- LCO Klenovnik
- LCO Selo Kostolac
- Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on the ecological character of Ramsar region Labudovo okno

The remarks and requests are the following:

- exposure of the population to combined pollution
- necessity of displacement (the argument for displacement - air pollution in the village of Drmno!)
- the population does not trust the documents and prescribed environmental measures. All villages in the area are endangered by ash because they are in the zone of influence of TPP Kostolac. Request to deal with the health and social aspect of the population in the village.
- stability of the ground where houses are built that are endangered due to subsidence

Comments by NGO CEKOR:

1. We believe that it is necessary to reject this study, to approach the determination of the state of the environment and the impact on people and their settlements of the energy facilities that have been existant for several decades, to start making alternative in accordance with the Paris Agreement, the long-term directions of EU decarbonisation, to redesign the facility to comply with the final draft of BREF 2016.

2. The facility as described in this study is inconsistent with the final draft of the BREF document 2016 that will be valid for this facility if it is granted an IPCS permit (which is considered to be the so-called environmental permit in Serbia). CEKOR has inquired about this topic on several independent sides and it is clear that this is a fact.
3. This facility is in line with the BREF from 10 years ago but is not in line with the 2013 and 2016 drafts which will soon be adopted and binding for this facility. In this way, the maker, sponsor and the competent ministry, if they adopt this study, endanger taxpayers in the sense that the facility, although perhaps even built in accordance with the standards of 2006, must quickly become a subject of investment or, worse, be closed due to prohibited allowed state aid to operators-manufacturers of electricity. In this context, damage can have catastrophic economic and environmental consequences.
4. The analysis of heavy metals As, Cd, Cr, Pb, Hg and Ni, qualitative but even more quantitative, in almost all parts of the study is missing, i.e. all emission flows (smoke, water, impact on the soil, sludge generated, etc.) by which the direct threats to citizens are concealed, which is equal to endangering public health and safety, related to the systematic lack of measurement of the presence of dry bulk solids in the investigated area.
5. The thermal power plant, or its impact on local communities that live directly near the power plant, has been described, or estimated as if it is floating in the air. These places are even mentioned only in a few places, but more by the way, without real engagement in the assessment of the impact. One should not forget that Kostolac B 1 and B2 have existed for almost 30 years in this area and that there has been more than enough time even for very detailed scientific research and assessments of the impact on health, land, agriculture, water, groundwater, etc.
6. The study does not contain any data on the state of health through the area (narrower and broader list of local communities) and through time (from the establishment of Kostolac A) to the present day.
7. It is necessary to provide a new and accurate estimate of the efficiency of the plant, given the significantly increased consumption of electricity for filters, DFG plant, increase in coal production, and the expected increase in electricity consumption for delivery. In all likelihood, the consumption plant's own consumption will be around, or more than 20% of the electricity produced, not to mention the additional production for coal. We also need to be provided with these data in the description of the efficiency of the plant.
8. In this way, decision-makers and citizens will be accurately informed of the net efficiency of the entire cycle of coal production and its transformation into the electricity available online. It is only in such a context that it is possible to seriously consider Table 3.3.2-2: Project output parameters of block B3 TPP Kostolac B, which show us the pollution parameter at the maximum limit and the efficiency at the minimum. These numbers mean that the plant can never "fail" because it will drastically exceed the pollution threshold (see the situation described below with the newly built Kostolac B 1 and 2 electro-filters, about which the competent authorities, the sponsor and the maker of course, know everything, they only need to be reminded) and that CO₂ emissions will be at maximum in relation to the available electricity, that is, the projected emission factor as shown in this study will be closer to the current EPS emission factors than the desired ones.
9. The study does not include a credible cumulative assessment of the impact on local communities, including Kovin (settlement across Danube in the direction of Deliblato Sands). In addition, the cumulative impact assessment has to deal with all

aspects of the impact of both the mine and the thermal power complex as well as all transport activities (band conveyors and their noise, truck transport, future rail transport, the impact of vibration from all these facilities, the impact of all the type of waste, including the most dangerous landfill site located around the village of Drmno and which, according to credible geological assessments, leads to damage to all facilities in Drmno). This study also had to deal with the real situation with ash dumps, that is, the large number of accidents that happen, but even more especially with the high impact of dust on all villages around the thermal power plant, mines and ash, of which these commentators had the opportunity to be personally assured. We remind that the dust that falls on the citizens and that they inhale is not harmless dust, but one of the most dangerous mining industrial dust.

10. The project is not coherent with the EU climate goals and misleads decision makers and citizens from the danger of having to pay large CO₂ emission penalties, i.e. that they will have to close the facility and repay it, although it will not work. Chapter 6.3.8. Serbia's commitment is to reduce CO₂ emissions by 2050, that is, to eliminate emissions from the energy sector by then. According to the energy strategy, and according to the sound economic science, this facility cannot be used in an economically justified way if it does not work at least 40-50% of the time, which means that Serbia plans to emit minimum half of the emissions compared to now. This is one of the important objections - that no alternative option was given for the situation without this facility, that is, without Kostolac A and B facilities, and on the one hand, it is clearly shown that Serbia as the promoter of this project does not intend to comply with the EU climate goals, on the other hand, it was shown that the maker of this study did not even intend to provide alternative scenarios, that is, this assessment violates the Impact Assessment Directive because it does not make any assessment of the alternatives.
11. The maker's lack of seriousness is evident when dealing with option A and option B, with a larger or smaller thermal power plant on coal. This is not an alternative to the Impact Assessment Directive, and only because of this fact the study must not be adopted.
12. On page 140, there is no mention at all of the Paris Agreement or INDC submitted by Serbia and which should lead to a reduction in the coming decades and finally to the elimination of CO₂ emissions from the electricity sector. This is a strategic objection that shows that the maker and his sponsor do not take into account the obligation to direct the power sector in the direction of decarbonisation. It is necessary to make this study again taking into account this and the previous strategic objection.
13. Carbon oxides, carbon monoxide (CO) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) are formed as a product of oxidation of carbon in combustion of fuel (carbon content in the Kolubara lignite of guaranteed quality is 20.8%), whereby CO is incomparably smaller than the amount of CO₂. Formation of carbon monoxide depends on the efficiency of oxidation of fuel.
14. Very serious though seemingly minor problem is that this study is obviously beneficial/growing, because on page 140 the processor uses coal data from Kolubara!
15. Page 195- Environmental Impact Assessment of OCM Drmno; estimation of the dry bulk solids, but given according to their modeling.
16. Under the Study's formality, it is especially assumed that the study shows that the maker does not care at all whether it is possible if the study that does not have a single data on dry bulk solids in 50 km radius recipients, on the presence of heavy metals as listed (As, Cd, Cr, Pb, Hg, Ni), on the health impact of Kostolac A and B

on the citizens of the entire region, but more on the need to make a serious cumulative impact assessment, together with mines, transport, landfill, will pass at all. The laws of Serbia prevent any industrial activity that cannot permanently eliminate the pollution that comes from it and in this context we consider that, while this industrial activity of Kostolac A and B and the mine do not comply with the standards that regulate it at the EU level, it should not be granted a permit for further impact expansion.

The first meeting of the Technical Commission was held on March 21, 2017 in the premises of the Ministry, which was attended by the representatives of the project holder and processors of the Study. All the remarks made at the public hearing, those submitted at the public hearing in writing, as well as the objections of the interested public and NGOs sent by mail and received within the legal deadline, were considered. The comments of the members of the Technical Commission on the study were also submitted to the competent body.

Following the comments and remarks, the processor was asked to complete and complete the Study on all chapters, and accordingly, the competent authority sent the project holder on 29 March 2017 the official letter for the completion and updating of the Study. In accordance with the legal obligation, the letter for refinement was forwarded to all parties in the proceedings and he was requested to:

- Complete the study by commenting on the compliance of the Plant with the final draft BREF, June 2016.
- In accordance with the current legislation, in Chapters 5 and 9, comment on the environmental factors for measuring heavy metals; in Chapter 5, indicate the measuring points, and in Chapter 9 define the obligation of their monitoring.
- Comment on statistical data on the health status of the population in the vicinity of the TPP Kostolac and attach the source of information.
- Describe in detail and explain the efficiency of the plant. Check the net efficiency of the block (compliance with BAT/BREF for large combustion plants.)
- Supplement the study with the cumulative impact of the planned plant and existing pollutants in the environment.
- Display the spatial arrangement of residential buildings in the immediate surroundings of the project, including the new coal landfill and ash, slag and gypsum landfills, showing the structure of the population by age, as well as the total number of endangered inhabitants.
- Internationally significant and protected areas of Deliblato Sands RSO IBA, Labudovo okno RSO16IBA, Ramsarsko Serbia 3RSO05 and the Danube River, international ecological corridor, are located near TPP Kostolac; carry out an impact analysis, process the measurement results and predict the protection measures.
- Show the wind rose in the image of the wider locations of the plant, in order to see the direction of the windworks and the potential impact of the operation of the plant on the vulnerable facilities.
- Provide calculation for the chimney height; treat other emitters from multiple systems: dust extraction during delivery, fuel and auxiliary substances transfer (limestone, etc.), as well as from their process treatment. There are also emitters from the dust extraction system for the products of combustion (ash). Display basic technical data (flow, temperature, concentration) necessary for assessment of proposed air protection solutions.

- The quantities of air to be extracted and emitted into the atmosphere are to be stated, in terms of quantity (m³/h of actual, i.e. actual at a certain temperature), place, i.e. location and what is, and in what quantity, emitted into the air. Describe the applied solutions of industrial ventilation and filtration, with specified technical characteristics, which provide sufficient security to minimize the impact of the entire facility on the environment and the control of the impact. It is necessary to prove that the emissions will be below the ELV by the applied technical solution of the system of industrial ventilation and filtration, as well as the selected equipment.
- Record: a) all sources of dry bulk solids and suspended particles, b) ways of solving them, i.e. planned dusting systems and filtering devices. Describe the discharge of the boiling point from the boiler bunkers, how to purify dusty air and where it is being driven. Display data in the form of a list, a tabular, or a drawing.
- Display cumulatively emitted substances (SO₂, NO₂ and PM) without and with the applied emission reduction measures, or give their concentrations at a distance of 10-20 km, as well as the potential impact of TPP Kostolac B and contribution to air pollution on the territory of neighboring Romania; supplement the Study with the results of the measurement of PM10 and PM2.5 in the area of settlements in the vicinity of TPP Kostolac and comment.
 - Describe the scenario of possible accidents at these places
 - Perform modeling for each scenario described
 - Based on modeling, determine the areas of vulnerability and consequences of the accident
 - In the end, make a risk assessment for every appropriate situation
- Define the worst-case scenario (most likely the failure of the FGD plant) and perform the modeling in the order indicated above
- Define all emitters on which the emission measurement is planned and prescribe the types of measurements (continuous, periodic), as well as the parameters that are measured and specify their limit values.
- Define specific locations where sampling of wastewater will be carried out for quality testing.
- Specifically describe the monitoring of air, water, soil and noise, and in particular the monitoring of new coal landfill, ash, slag and plaster landfill.
- Define the setting of one's own meteorological station.

An updated and amended Study with comments and answers to remarks was submitted on April 25, 2017 in electronic form, which was notified to all parties in the proceedings and requested to submit their opinion and remarks. At the second meeting of the Technical Commission held on May 18, 2017, members of the Technical Commission were acquainted with the objections they submitted:

- NGO CEKOR
- LCO Stari Kostolac
- LCO Klenovnik

Remarks are as follows:

- the project is not in accordance with the new BREF document adopted on April 28, 2017, the existence of the so-called draft version of this document is already known for a longer period of time and in this context it is not clear why the processor did not order aligning the project with this document. Namely, at the moment of adoption of

the document, this project falls under it and its provisions. The document is available at http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regcomitology/index.cfm?do=search.documentdetail&Dos_ID=14177&ds_id=50159&version=1&page=1, adopted as we said in April this year.

- No heavy metal analysis (As, Cd, Cr, Cu, Hg, Ni, Pb, Zn) was done, although, according to the new BREF document, it is mandatory. We consider this to be a disadvantage because the emissions of these elements in the water are thoroughly processed. These values are given in mg/l and g/MWh but only for water, which is directly against the EC regulations 2010/75/EU and 166/2006.
- In accordance with the European Parliament Directive 2011/92/EU, Article 3, it would be necessary to provide secondary/hourly/annual emissions of these metals, which is more fully described in Articles 4-12 of this Directive.
- Based on the EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook (2013) of the European Environment Agency (indicative values for heavy metal emissions per LU of lignite from the energy referred to in this decree)
- On the basis of the heat of the coal and the heat of the boiler, and of the assumed emissions, which can be found in this binding decree, we made the calculation of the emissions of all heavy metals and we reached a value that multiply exceed the Annex II Pollutants to EPRTR Regulation. These emissions exceed permitted emissions of 1.6 times for arsenic, 4 times for cadmium, 2 times for chrome, 6.5 times for mercury, 4.5 times for nickel, 1.5 times for lead.
- After obtaining these programs it is necessary to put these numbers together with the data for the existing boilers in the model and determine the distribution of heavy metals from all three blocks. Based on Annex II 2004/107/EC it is possible to see what values heavy metals should have. This means that the block is already ripe for reconstruction before the building.
- The efficiency of the block at the lower limit is 36.5-40% and taking into account consumption for filters, desulphurization (the study claims that the reduction is only at the level of 3%, which would be worth discussing on the basis of more research from plants in the world that have a long-lasting system for desulphurization) and our own consumption, we consider that this percentage is achieved by tense calculations. As taxpayers, we consider that a much higher level of efficiency must be obtained for the money invested. We propose a revision of the technology with the requirement of far more efficiency. In this way, the plant will in the near future be almost certainly exposed to the request for reconstruction, which "kills" the economy of a facility that is problematic as it is.
- The link of the Household Survey in Drmno (where this survey is mentioned) needs to be placed everywhere so that the interested public can access the information in its entirety
- The requests of LCO Kostolac and Klenovnik are identical to those from public hearings;

At the meeting of the Technical Commission, the comments and observations on the subject project analyzed by the competent ministry of Romania after the completion of the consultations with the interested public and official bodies were submitted to the Ministry on May 18, 2017, referring to the following:

1. The concerned public and the authorities of Romania are concerned about the possible impact of the project on air quality in the Kostolac settlement on the Romanian side, in the

context of the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere from a new thermal power plant. Although the projected emission is within the limits permitted by Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions, these emissions may lead, in a transboundary context, to the degradation of air quality in the Danube border region, Caras-Severin, Romania.

Romania considers that the reduction of a possible significant negative transboundary impact, especially on air quality, is closely linked to possible comparative analysis of proposed measures (designed measures for reducing emissions of pollutants into the atmosphere - emission of pollutants into the atmosphere) in relation to the best available techniques for reducing emissions - emission level related to the best available techniques presented within the Reference Document for the best available techniques for large combustion plants - final version of June 2016, prepared by the Joint Research Center - European Institute for Future Technological Studies (Sector for sustainable production and consumption) - European IPCS Institute, with the coordination of the European Commission. Details regarding this subject are given below:

a) The projected emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and suspended particles exceed the emission values based on the best available techniques for the new lignite thermal power plants provided in the Reference Document for the best available techniques for large combustion plants:

- SO₂: 10- 75 mg/Nm³ annual average; 25-110 mg/Nm³ daily average
- NO_x: 50-85 mg/Nm³ annual average; 80-125 mg/Nm³ daily average
- PM: 2-5 mg/Nm³ annual average; 3-10 mg/Nm³ daily average

b) The project does not provide for the implementation of secondary measures for the reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions (NO_x) in order to achieve emission values defined by the best available techniques for new lignite plants within the Reference Document for the best available techniques for large combustion plants. For example, the selective catalytic reduction process is widely used to reduce nitrogen oxides in gases produced as combustion products in large furnaces in Europe and other countries around the world.

c) The values of heavy metal emissions related to the project are not indicated. These values are necessary for assessing compliance with air quality standards. In this regard, for newly built lignite plants, within the Reference Document for the best available techniques for large fires, the emission limit values are defined in the range of 1 to 4 µg/Nm³.

2. The vulnerability of the climate change project has not been assessed. In 2014, the open cut mine Drmno was flooded twice with high environmental impacts and an impact on stable electricity production. It is necessary to carry out a probability analysis for the occurrence of floods as well as potential negative effects and define the preventive measures to be applied. It should also be examined whether, in dry periods, there is a risk of conflict related to the use of water.

3. This urban plan was not the subject of a strategic environmental impact assessment at the national level or in a transboundary context, which is a requirement in accordance with the provisions of the SEA Protocol (from Kyiv); as well as the Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, which envisages the construction of block B3 within the TPP Kostolac B, did not pass the process of strategic environmental impact assessment. The ESPOO Convention and Kyiv Protocol Implementation Committee is currently investigating this issue (more information can be found in the Implementation Commission Report of September 2016) and explicitly require the Republic of Serbia to provide information on the impact of these programs on the environment and health of the population. Moreover, the aforementioned urban plan also aims to increase the production capacities of OCM "Drmno", which supplies fuel for TPP "Kostolac" from the current 9 million tons to 12 million tons of

lignite per year. This increase in production has not yet been the subject of an environmental impact assessment.

Therefore, we consider that the procedures defined by the law that the Republic of Serbia had to take in order to respect international law on this issue are not respected.

In addition, the impact on the environment needs to be assessed cumulatively - both the impact of the construction of the new block, and the impact of the expansion of the capacity of the open cut mine.

4. Pages 193 - 195, Chapter 3.3. 7. Cumulative impact of OCM "Drmno" and TPP "Kostolac"
A cumulative impact on water resources is mentioned, but no analysis is provided.

5. Page 203, Chapter 4.1 Alternative energy-technical solution of the block

When it comes to alternative power solutions of the 400 and 500 MW block mentioned in the report, the given emission limit values are not in accordance with the Industrial Emissions Directive, Annex C, Part 2, which has been transposed into the legislation of the Republic of Serbia. In addition, alternative solutions with different fuels, as well as different locations, should be considered, bearing in mind the available fuel.

6. Page 208 – Table 5.1-2: Maximum permissible concentration of pollutants in the air (limit value for the protection of human health and value of targeted measurements)

The heavy metal emissions into the atmosphere are only given as a limitation required by the legislation in force - the Air Quality Directive. The document does not contain measurements of the pollutants concerned, nor does it indicate whether these limit values are currently fulfilled or does not contain a model for the proposed block on the basis of which specific emissions are determined.

7. Pages 217-218 of the Table in which the maximum and average monthly and daily values of PM10 concentration in the air are given between 2013 and 2015

Longer series of data are missing among the data provided:

-For 2013, there are no data for four consecutive months, from September to December.

-For 2015, there are no data for January, February, March and December.

We believe that the lack of these measurements leads to an incorrect conclusion about the annual average value of the suspended particles (PM10), which is even more worrying, since it is known that these values tend to be higher in winter months as a result of the appearance of temperature inversion.

Independent measurements carried out by Bankwatch using a certified analyzer (GRIMM EDM164) for a period of one month, between November 17 and December 16, 2016, in the village of Drmno, in the vicinity of which lies the lignite mine and in the immediate vicinity of the thermal power plant "Kostolac B", indicate that the PM10 daily values were exceeded from the 16th to the 30th day when these measurements were made. Values for PM2.5 are constantly above the 20 mg/m³ limit recommended by the World Health Organization (26 days of measurement). The results of independent measurements of Bankwatch are available at <http://bankwatch.com/campaign/coal/airpollution>.

In addition, the air quality monitoring station closest to the thermal power plant does not even record PM values, but only CO and SO₂.

<http://www.amskv.sepa.gov.rs/pregledpodataka.php?stanica=14>

8. Page 283, Chapter 6.3.8. Impact on the climate

It is recommended to analyze the compliance of the B3 Block construction project with the Road Map for the energy sector for 2050 of the European Union and its correlation with the

Paris Agreement, as this document provides for the decarbonization of the energy sector by 2050, and the Kostolac B3 block will be in operation at that time.

9. Page 285 - 6.3.12. Transport of transboundary pollution

The measurements used relate only to emissions from CO₂ and NO₂ in the period 2000-2013, without taking into account the PM10 and PM2.5 emissions, and it has been proven that the emission of these particles has a significant transboundary impact, over the air at distances of several hundred kilometers.

In addition, the Environmental Impact Assessment report does not provide a modeling of the future impact of TPP Kostolac B after the construction of a new production unit. Real analysis should show projections of the transboundary impact of all prescribed emissions of pollutants during the operation of the new block, cumulatively with the emission of existing blocks.

10. Impact on Natura 2000 sites: On the Romanian side of the Danube, in the area of potential impact, there are two Natura 2000 locations: ROSCI 0206 Đerdap and ROSPA0080 Almajului - Locvei Mountains. The impact on them has not been analyzed.

11. On page 159, Table 3.3.5-22, the measuring units for the displayed results are required.

12. Please translate the relevant images/schemes from Serbian into English, so that they can be understood.

By the letter dated 19 May 2017, the project holder was requested that the Study be completed and supplemented in accordance with the objections of the Technical Commission, the interested public and Romania. He was requested to:

- Supplement the Study by Plant Conformity Analysis with final version of BREF document draft
- Make a calculation of the distribution of contaminants (heavy metals) of pollutants, defined in Annex 1 of Directive 2004/107 in an atmosphere of appropriate modeling, as already done in the Study for individual components
- Due to the cumulative environmental impact, note that there is no dust extraction of the coal delivery system by the conveyor belts until the receiving bunkers on the old blocks. It is mentioned in chapter 3.2.2, etc. This is clearly stated as a solution for new blocks in Tab. 3.3.6-12 for example, the need for resolution should be given in the Measures.
- Show schematically the system for dust extraction in the limestone delivery system.
- The modeling shown here only represents the verification of some height of the chimney, but explain the determination of this numerical value:
- Define measures to reduce nitrogen oxides.
- Provide proposals for measures related to environmental monitoring and organization of population health surveys.
- Amend the environmental monitoring with the obligation to develop a comprehensive ambient air quality monitoring program. The program must define the target of the test, the locations at which the measurement is made, the selected pollutants, the measurement time, the meteorological data.

The competent authority responded by electronic means on June 9, 2017 to the Romanian side, which was prepared by PE ELEKTROPRIVREDA SRBIJE, as the project holder,
Answers:

1. Block B3 of TPP Kostolac was designed in accordance with the valid national regulations in the field of environmental protection. When it comes to emissions of polluting substances into the air, the plant is designed so that emissions are aligned with the ELVs that are defined in the Decree on ELVs of pollutants into the air from the combustion plant.

International obligations

By signing the Energy Community Treaty, the Republic of Serbia has undertaken, among other things, to apply certain regulations in the field of environmental protection. In the field of air protection, the obligations that apply to the new block TP Kostolac B3 refer to the implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive - Chapter 3 of 1 January 2018. The new block is designed in a way that its work is aligned with the ELVs prescribed in IED - Chapter 5, or the associated Annex 5.

The EU integration process

The Draft of a new revision of the LCP BREF document is still available. According to the previous practice, following the adoption of new BREF documents, the process of negotiations is started with the EU member states on the revision of the legislation in line with the new proposals of conclusions given in the BREF, i.e. the emission limit values from large combustion plants, as well as the deadlines for their achievement. Based on the final agreements, new EU Directives are issued and adopted in order to define the emission limit values that will apply to "new" and "existing" facilities. In doing so, time boundaries that define the status of the facilities (new-existing) are changed (moved).

The Republic of Serbia is in the process of EU accession, which implies the obligation to align national legislation with relevant EU regulations, among which are environmental regulations. In addition to transposing EU regulations into national legislation, during the negotiation process, deadlines will be defined in which individual plants will coordinate their work with the relevant EU regulations.

Accordingly, the Republic of Serbia will also enter into negotiations regarding the assumption of obligations in terms of alignment with the new ELVs for its facilities, as well as the dynamics for the implementation of the said changes. It can be expected that in the service life of block B3, it will be necessary to modernize some systems in order to achieve new requirements regarding the limitation of emissions of pollutants. In connection with this, the block B3 project envisages the possibility of modernizing the planned technical solution of the block by installing the following systems:

- System for reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions by secondary measures, based on selective catalytic reduction (as stated in the Study)
- CO₂ emission reduction system – left space within the site of block B3 for the construction of such a system, when some of the technologies are commercially available, and depending on the obligations that will be agreed at the level of the Republic of Serbia regarding the reduction of CO₂ emissions
- Designed solutions for reducing emissions of sulfur oxides and dry bulk solids can be modernized in order to achieve a higher efficiency of emission reduction.

Heavy metal emissions

The Law on the Confirmation of the Heavy Metals Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution from 1979, made on June 24, 1998 in Aarhus - Denmark

(Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia - International Agreements, No. 1/2012), Republic of Serbia has assumed obligations related to the control of emissions of heavy metals caused by anthropogenic activities, which are the subject of long-distance transboundary air transport. The main obligations of the States Parties to the Protocol are to reduce the total annual emissions of heavy metals from Annex 2 (lead, cadmium and mercury) into the atmosphere relative to the level of emissions from the reference year (1990), by taking effective measures, and in accordance with the circumstances prevailing in certain countries.

The deadline for applying limit values and the best available techniques for new stationary sources is two years from the date of entry into force of the said Protocol.

Heavy metal emissions are limited through the emission limit values of certain heavy metals or heavy metal groups or through the emission of dry bulk solids in general.

Although the limit values for dry bulk solids cannot replace the specific values for cadmium, lead and mercury, compliance with the limit values for dry bulk solids greatly contributes to the reduction of heavy metal emissions. In addition, the continuous monitoring of individual heavy metals in dry bulk solids is generally unfeasible, while the monitoring of the powder materials is carried out according to known procedures and techniques.

Therefore, in Annex 5 of the aforementioned Law (Limit Values for Controlling Emissions from Large Stationary Sources), the limit values for dry bulk solids are considered to be the only substitute for specific limit values for cadmium, lead or mercury. In this regard, the specific limit values for heavy metals for large stationary sources (>50 MW), in which fossil fuels are burned, are defined through the emission limit values for the dry bulk solids. For solid fuel ELV is 50 mg/m³.

All member countries of EMEP shall produce and maintain inventory of emissions for heavy metals from Annex 2 of the Law (lead, cadmium and mercury).

It is also important to note that appropriate environmental measures must be applied for the use and/or disposal of products and/or waste containing Cd, Pb, and/or Hg.

In accordance with the above, the following are the design solutions applied to block B3, which achieve the reduction of heavy metal emissions into the environment in the following ways:

- Ensuring high efficiency of the block.
- Measures for reducing the emission of dry bulk solids: dusting in a dry electro filter, desulphurization of flue gases by wet process and dusting in a wet electro filter.
- Securing the leakage of ash, slag and gypsum landfill, which prevents the migration of heavy metals into land and groundwater.
- Recirculation of free water from ash, slag and gypsum landfill for the purpose of wetting the landfill itself, without discharge into the recipient.
- The technology of depositing the humidified mixture and dumping the landfill, which prevents the spread of particles to the surrounding land.
- Recirculation of waste water from the ash and slag system within the system, without discharge into the water (Danube).
- The use of treated wastewater from the CPW, FGD and wet EF plant for the preparation of thick hydrophobic ash and slag (for the needs of blocks B1 and B2), without discharge into the recipient.

It should be noted that the B3 block project has predicted that the emission of dry bulk solids will be 10 mg/m³, which is a significantly stricter value than the one above (50 mg/m³).

2. Location of block B3 is not endangered by flood risk. The analysis of the threat of the Drmno mine is not within the scope of the Study. There is a special study on the impact analysis of coal mining from the OCM Drmno on the environment.

3. In accordance with the Law on Energy ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 145/2014), Article 3, the three main strategic documents include the following:

- Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia,
- Program for the implementation of the Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, and
- Energy balance of the Republic of Serbia.

In May 2005, the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia by 2015, published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", no. 44/05 (see Annex to this letter). This document defines five priorities for the development of the energy sector of the Republic of Serbia in the period until 2015. In the document, you can find Table 4.1. *Program Priorities: Continuity of technological modernization of existing energy sources and construction of new sources of energy/facilities, including the introduction of new energy efficient and environmentally friendly technologies*, where all measures and activities for all sectors of energy are presented. In this table for the energy sector, one of the activities is the construction of a new thermal power plant on lignite (700 MW/4800 GWh).

Based on this Strategy and the Law on the Confirmation of the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Infrastructure between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the People's Republic of China, adopted in 2009 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia - International Agreements" No. 90/09), activities on the construction of the new "Kostolac B3" thermal power plant have started.

The Parliament of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Strategy of Energy Development for the period until 2025 with projections until 2030 (hereinafter referred to as the RS Energy Development Strategy) on December 4, 2011.

The Energy Development Strategy of RS is a document defining the main strategic frameworks and main priorities for the development of the energy sector of the Republic of Serbia and providing a list of potential projects and activities for each subsector (electricity, heat, coal, oil, gas, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency). In accordance with the Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (Official Gazette of RS, No. 135/2004 and 88/10), the Study on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) was prepared based on the decision of the Ministry of Mining and Energy (then the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection) number: 312-01-00731/2013-04 of 11 June 2013. (published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" No. 56/13) on the undertaking of a strategic environmental impact assessment for the Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2025 with projections until 2030.

An English version of the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment developed for the Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia is attached to this letter.

We would like to emphasize that the draft decision was previously addressed for consideration and comments to the following institutions:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs for consideration and comments,
2. Ministry of Defense,
3. Ministry of Finance and Economy,
4. Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy,
5. Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development,

6. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management,
7. Ministry of Health,
8. Ministry of Internal Affairs,
9. Ministry of Natural Resources, Mining and Spatial Planning,
10. Ministry of Regional Development and Local Self-Government,
11. Republic Secretariat for Legislation,
12. Republic Hydrometeorological Institute,
13. Environmental Protection Agency,
14. Republic Agency for Spatial Planning,
15. Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia,
16. Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning and Environmental Protection, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

In the RS Energy Development Strategy document, you can find Chapter 5. DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY SECTOR, Table 5.1 Potential projects for new generation capacities in the electricity sector.

Table 5.1: Potential projects for new generation capacities in the electricity sector

Project name	Installed power	Estimated project implementation period year	Indicative investment value €
TPPNT B3	750 MW	4-6	1 600 000 000
TPP Kolubara B	2 x 375 MW	6	1 500 000 000
TPP Kostolac B3	350 MW	4	450 000 000
TPP Novi Kovin	2 x 350 MW	6	1 330 000 000
TPP Štavalj	300 MW	5	650 000 000 750 000 000****
TPP-HP Novi Sad	340 MWe	2-3	400 000 000
TPP-HP on natural gas	860 MWe *	4 (implementation phase)	1 500 000 000
TPP Velika Morava	147,7 MW**	3-7 (implementation phase)	360 000 000
Ibar HPP***	117 MW**	2-7 (implementation phase)	300 000 000
HPP on Srednja Drina***	321 MW**	5-9 (implementation phase)	819 000 000
RHPP Bistrica	4 x 170 MW	5	560 000 000
RHPP Đerdap 3 (first phase)	2 x 300 MW	5	400 000 000
Mini HPP	387 MW	6 (191 location)	500 000 000

a – Total power of TPP-HP (Pančevo, Belgrade, Niš, etc.)

b – Total power of cascade MHPPs

c - Implementation under the Law on the Confirmation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Italy on Cooperation in the Field of Energy ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia - International Agreements", No. 7/12)

d – Also including investment in the mine

The Ministry of Mining and Energy organized a public debate in the period from 16 August to 11 October 2013 for the prepared document of the RS Energy Development Strategy. All comments and suggestions were sent to the e-mail strategija@merz.gov.rs. During the public hearing process, six public hearings were organized: three in Belgrade, one in Kragujevac, one in Niš and one in Novi Sad. The last public hearing (of six) was organized on October 11, 2013 for representatives of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia, representatives of the Secretariat of the Energy Community and representatives of international institutions and diplomatic corps. A representative of the Embassy of Romania participated in this public debate.

The Public Hearing Report was prepared.

Taking into account the need to implement the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, in the process of public procurement of low value no. 15/2013, the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, as the proposer of the Study on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, engaged the Institute for Architecture, Urban Planning and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Serbia to undertake a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment.

The report on the strategic assessment of the environmental impact of the Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia until 2025 with projections until 2030 was prepared in Serbian and English, and a public hearing on the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment was organized in the period of 30 October until November 25, 2013. All comments and suggestions were sent to the e-mail strategija@merz.gov.rs. In the course of that period, the public hearing was organized on November 22, 2013 in the Serbian Chamber of Commerce. During the public debate, the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, together with the draft RS Energy Development Strategy, was sent to the following institutions for consideration and comments:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs to forward the Report on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment to other countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Macedonia, Hungary and Croatia, in accordance with the Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" , No. 135/2004 and 88/10),
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs for consideration and comments,
3. Ministry of Defense,
4. Ministry of Economy,
5. Ministry of Finance,
6. Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy,
7. Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development,
8. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management,
9. Ministry of Health,
10. Ministry of Interior,
11. Ministry of Natural Resources, Mining and Spatial Planning,
12. Ministry of Regional Development and Local Self-Government,
13. Republic Secretariat for Legislation,
14. Republic Hydrometeorological Institute,
15. Agency for Environmental Protection,
16. Republic Agency for Spatial Planning,
17. Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia,

18. Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning and Environmental Protection, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

The Ministry of Mining and Energy did not receive any comments on the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and draft RS Energy Development Strategy from neighboring countries in the required period.

The Report on the Public Hearing on the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been prepared and we send it in the enclosure of this letter in the Serbian language.

In accordance with the Law on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, the Ministry of Mining and Energy (then the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection) submitted for adoption the Report on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and the Report on the Public Hearing for the Report on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Planning and Management Unit, Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Group. Approval was granted by act no. 350-02-145/13-05 of 17 December 2013.

The new RS Energy Development Strategy was presented at a bilateral screening meeting with the European Commission held in Brussels in June 2014.

The Parliament of the Republic of Serbia adopted the new RS Energy Development Strategy in December 2015 ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 101/15).

In accordance with the Law on Energy, Art. 5 and 6, detailed measures, activities and projects to be implemented in the next period (2017-2023) will be defined by the Program of Implementation of the Energy Development Strategy of RS. This document will be prepared this year and adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. For the Program for the Implementation of the Energy Development Strategy for the Republic of Serbia for the period 2017-2023, a Report on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment has been prepared based on the decision of the Ministry of Mining and Energy No. 312-01-00493/2016-06 of June 6, 2016. (published in the "Official Gazette of RS", No. 56/16).

4. Within the Study, it was concluded that the measurements did not record the influence of water from the mine on the quality of the cooling water, with which they are mixed, so further analyzes were not carried out.

5. Block B3 is designed as a planned expansion of TPP Kostolac B capacity, so analysis of alternatives in terms of fuel and site is not applicable for this project. The block strength analysis was performed in accordance with the remaining coal reserves with OCM Drmno, which is the only raw material base for TPP Kostolac B.

6. Within the PM10 measurement for the period 2014-2016, the content of heavy metals (nickel, lead, arsenic and cadmium) in suspended particles was also analyzed. The results indicate that, according to the defined limit values for the content of heavy metals in suspended particles, the Decree on requirements for monitoring and air quality (target values at the mean annual level of the concentration of PM10) did not register overrun of the heavy metal content, as shown in the following Table 1.

The assessment of the emissions of heavy metals via flue gases from block B3 was made based on the recommended values of their emission coefficients for lignite type coals, for energy production plants (Combustion in Energy and Transformation Industries, EMEP/EEA Emission Inventory Guidebook, 2013). Taking into account the technical characteristics of

block B3, Table 2 shows the recommended emission coefficient values as well as calculated concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, nickel, lead and mercury in the flue gas of block B3.

Estimation of the contribution of block B3 to the concentrations of heavy metals in air, compared to the target values prescribed by the aforementioned Decree, was made on the basis of the mean annual values of the input parameters. Figure 1 shows the distribution of mean annual values of concentrations of heavy metals in the case of arsenic, in the area around block B3. The expected maximum concentrations are about 0.08 ng/m³, which is significantly lower than the target value of 6 ng/m³.

Similarly, it can be concluded that contributions to the concentration of cadmium and nickel emitted via flue gases from block B3 are also negligible in relation to the given target values, which for nickel are 20 ng/m³, and for cadmium 5 ng/m³, while their maximum expected mean annual concentration is 0.6 ng/m³ and 0.2 ng/m³.

Given the prescribed emission limit value of lead in ambient air (500 ng/m³ annually) and the estimated emission value from block B3, it is concluded that lead is not a reference pollutant from the lignite energy plant because the forecasted concentrations in the air are far below prescribed values.

Based on the calculations presented, in Romania the concentrations of heavy metals emitted from block B3 will be very low (relative to the stated target values), which is due primarily to low emissions (according to the applied measures to reduce emissions of dry bulk solids, <10 mg/m³), but also due to low probability of transportation of pollution to these areas.

7. The study stated that the measurements carried out in the previous period will not be reference during the operation of block B3 (after 2020), bearing in mind that new systems for reducing air emissions will be built on all TPP Kostolac A and B blocks (reconstruction projects are underway).

The measurements carried out by Bankwatch in the period November-December 2016, which relate only to suspended particles, should be considered in the light of the following facts:

- There is no necessary evidence of a measuring device (proof of device calibration, measurement method, authority of the institution that performed the measurement)
- The representativeness of the measuring point has not been demonstrated: the report stated that the measuring point is located in Drmno, at a distance of 500 m from TPP Kostolac; TPP Kostolac B is located at a distance of more than 1.5 km from the town of Drmno, so it is not clear where exactly the measuring point is located. It is unlikely that pollution of the measured intensity can be registered from a chimney height of 250 m at a distance of 500 m. It is customary to indicate the exact measurement location, marked on the map and described.
- The state of work of the blocks of the TPP Kostolac A and B during the measurement period is not mentioned: the engaged power of the blocks, the operation of electro-filter devices, the quality of coal, etc.
- There are no meteorological conditions in the measurement period: direction and wind speed, wind stability, air temperature, cloudiness, precipitation, which is crucial for the analysis of the results.
- The state of machine operation at OCM Drmno is not indicated in the measurement period.
- An analysis of the composition of particulate matter has not been performed (combustible, indelible, soluble, etc.).

On the basis of all the missing data, it is not possible to determine the reliability of the measured measurements, as well as the sources that led to the indicated levels of air pollution.

8. The project solution of Block B3 left the space within the location of the block for the construction of a CO₂ emission reduction system when some of the technologies are

commercially available and depending on the obligations to be agreed at the level of the Republic of Serbia regarding the reduction of CO₂ emissions.

We note that there is still no commercial CO₂ emission reduction technology, and that such measures have not yet been applied to much larger blocks (emitters) in the EU and the world. Also, the BREF document does not recommend BAT to reduce CO₂ emissions. The efficiency of block B3 is in line with the new proposal set out in the LCP BREF (Draft Final 2016) document, which fulfills this requirement that relates to CO₂ emissions from block B3. Other obligations of block B3 that may emerge in the future as a result of Serbia's obligations in terms of reducing CO₂ emissions are not known at this time.

9. Bearing in mind that the emissions of dry bulk solids from block B3 will be very low (for concentrations of 10mg/Nm³ of about 12kg/h), their contribution to transboundary transport is much lower than other pollutants considered, as well as of the existing sources of pollution with dry bulk solids. We consider that the transboundary transport of particles from the chimney of block B3 is negligible, which also shows the calculations of their concentrations in the air.

Also, in conditions where all measures for reducing emissions have been undertaken at LCP installations, pollution of some area is primarily a result of local sources, and not that of transboundary transport, which is also the goal of the regulation that relates to ELVs.

Thus, for example, under conditions where sulfur oxide emissions in Serbia are reduced by about 95%, and in the territory of Romania, a proportionally smaller quantity of sulfur will be deposited in relation to the values shown in Tables 6.3.12-3 and 6.3.12- 4 (in 2013 no DFG plant was operational in Serbia).

The Study will provide a forecast of the contribution of block B3 to deposited quantities of sulfur and nitrogen.

10. The area on the Romanian side of the Danube is covered by the shown calculations of the spread of contaminants in the air to a distance of about 30 km from block B3. Taking into account the predicted levels of pollution, the work of all blocks of TPP Kostolac A and B in the period after 2020 will not reach the permissible pollution levels in this area. Please note that the limit values for vegetation protection are defined only as mean annual values.

11. The results are shown in Bq/kg.

12. We note that there is no additional information in the attachments than what was given in the English version of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study, which was delivered to you.

The project holder also provided responses to the remarks and opinions of CEKOR, LCO Kostolac and LCO Klenovnik, which were directly submitted to the project holder:

- Based on all the analyzes and calculations made in the Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the Project for construction of a new block B3 at the site of TPP Kostolac B, it can be concluded that the NGO CEKOR remark which reads: "In view of the decades-long presence of the entire complex of pollutants, it is unacceptable to continue with the practice of concealing the state of health, or to continue with the studies of environmental impact assessment studies that do not have the basic parameters to evaluate it" is not justified.
- Also, on the basis of all analyzes and budgets on the health status of the population concluded in the Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the Project for construction of a new block B3 at the site TPP Kostolac B, the results of the survey

were published in the document entitled "Household Survey in the Settlement Drmno", done by the NGO CEKOR in the period February-April 2016, data of which were taken into account in the Study, do not represent the actual state, especially not on the new block B3 at the site TPP Kostolac B.

- The displacement of the village of Drmno is not the subject of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the Project for construction of a new block B3 at the site TPP Kostolac B.

The final version of the updated Study, in line with remarks and comments, was delivered on June 5, 2017 and forwarded to the members of the Technical Commission, as well as to the parties to the proceedings. At the third meeting of the Technical Commission held on June 15, 2017, which was attended by the representatives of the project holder and processors of the Study, the Technical Commission noted that all the arguments of the interested public were respected, that the document was corrected and updated in accordance with it and that it can be accepted.

The subject study was translated into English and forwarded to the Romanian Ministry. On 26 June 2017, the Romanian side informed electronically that it would be desirable to organize public consultations, i.e. presentation and public discussion in relation to the project in Bucharest, referring to Art. 5 of ESPOO Convention and emphasizing that this is, in accordance with Art. 6, necessary before making the final decision.

On 4 July 2017, by diplomatic channels, responses were received on remarks to the Romanian side indicating that it is not possible to organize transboundary consultations in this final phase, or to organize a public debate in Romania, as the Romanian side, in the letter of 10 February 2017, was informed that this was possible in the period until March 17, 2017, when a public presentation and a public hearing in the Republic of Serbia was organized, (March 9, 2017 in the City Administration of Požarevac). It was noted that the remarks/comments on the Study of 18 May 2017 were respected and that they were answered electronically and by official diplomatic channels. On 11 July 2017, the Romanian party confirmed the reception of the reply to the remarks delivered by diplomatic note by the Embassy of Serbia in Romania. By a letter of 13 July 2017, the Ministry of the Environment of Romania remains in its position and proposes that the presentation and public hearing be held in the territory of Romania, in the border region with the Republic of Serbia, in the province of Caras-Severin, in the town of Oravica in the period from 29 August 2017 until 1 September 2017, as well as a bilateral meeting of representatives of two ministries responsible for environmental protection.

Taking into consideration all the facts and international obligations arising from the application of the said Convention, on 4 August 2017, the competent authority suggested to the Romanian side that public hearings and consultations be held in Oravica in the province of Caras-Severin on 31 August and 1 September, 2017, which was agreed on 7 August 2017.

The project holder PE ELEKTROPRIVREDA SRBIJE, Energoprojekt Entel jsc, as the study processor, and the Ministry of Mining and Energy, were informed of the dates of the public hearing.

Accordingly, the presentation of the subject Study was translated into Romanian and English, the translators and technically organized departure of the Serbian delegation to Romania provided. The delegation to the Republic of Serbia was represented by: representatives of the competent authority - the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Mining and

Energy, representatives of the project holder, PE ELEKTROPRIVREDA SRBIJE, processors of the subject Study, Energoprojekt Entel jsc and members of the Technical Commission.

The study was presented at the Cultural Center "Mihai Eminescu", in the town of Oravica and the interested public had the opportunity to get answers to the questions asked.

The first presentation was related to the very proposal of the project "Construction of block of TPP Kostolac B3". The main technical characteristics and specifications of TPP "Kostolac" were also presented.

The second presentation was related to the Environmental Impact Assessment Study.

After the presentation, a public hearing was held in which the following participated:

Dr. Piroi Ion, professor, University „Eftimie Murgu“, Resita
Mr. Munteanu Gheorghe, Environmental Commissioner of the District of Caras Severin
Ms Hesser Corina, Department of Public Health Caras Severin
Mr. Zaharia Constantin, Hydropower Engineer, Hydropower Specialist
Mr. Sturza Popovici Cornel, engineer, president of the group for ecological cooperation, GEC Nera
Ms. Catalin Nagy, Banat Water Management
Mr. Viorel Roman, EPA Advisor Caras Severin

Experts and interested public asked questions related to the implementation of the project and its impact:

- Are all the legal provisions of the Kyoto Protocol complied with?
- What is the impact of CO₂ emissions (from block B3) on global warming?
- If the blocks B1, B2 and the future B3 are interconnected, can they be stopped in the event of an accident?
- What would be a transboundary impact be like in the event of a technical accident?
- After increasing the capacity from 9 to 12 million tons a year, where will the overburden from OCM "Drmno" be put away, which is its quantity and what is the possibility of pollution with dry bulk solids?
- What additional measures will be taken to improve the quality of the Danube River water, which is a natural bathing place, used by people living in areas downstream from the zone of mixing wastewater from TPP Kostolac?
- How can risk factors for the occurrence of certain diseases be prevented?
- Is the food chain under the influence when the water of the river Danube and the river itself is used for irrigation of crops or fishing?
- In the area of the Danube gorge, the temperature measured was higher by several degrees Celsius compared to the surrounding areas.
- The spread of pollutants discharged through a chimney (180 m high), in km, in the territory of Romania?
- Recommendation: monitoring emissions of pollutants in the air in order to avoid social costs associated with disregarding or quenching coal-fired power plants.
- Are there hydrogeological studies on negative impacts on deep groundwater (300-500 m)?
- The modeling of the dispersion is well done, but it is necessary to indicate the frequency of blowing winds in the direction of populated areas Sokol and Pojejena, which potentially apply dry bulk solids to their territory? The findings of the Environmental

Impact Assessment Study should have this information in order to have a clear picture of this issue.

- Is there a possibility to present the spatial distribution of thermal pollution of the Danube River with reflux cooling water? This modeling is done for the air, the same should be done for water.
- What is the potential impact of this type of pollution, especially on water biodiversity, which could affect the whole Danube River and neighboring natural areas?
- The quantities of ash produced will be huge. The ashes will be sold on the market or stored in specially designed cassettes for this purpose. For what purposes will the ashes be used on the market?

During the public hearing, the members of the Serbian delegation answered the following questions:

- The Republic of Serbia meets all EU regulations, since it is in the process of accession negotiations with the EU.
- The Project for the construction of block B3 is in line with the provisions of the EU legislation transposed into national laws.
- Block B3 will contribute in the future to reducing emissions by replacing old capacities.
- The Republic of Serbia is among the top 10 countries that have developed a CO₂ reduction plan in accordance with the Paris Agreement.
- Block B3 will function in accordance with the strictest provisions for thermal power plants, i.e. on the basis of the best technological solutions.
- To estimate the impact on Romania, modeling of dispersion of pollutants based on multi-year meteorological data (more than 8000 times a year for certain parameters for a period of 3 years) was used.
- In the most unfavorable meteorological conditions and under full load of all TPP blocks, the maximum level of pollutant levels based on the modeling results will reach half of the allowed concentrations defined for ambient air.
- The Technical Commission of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia asked the user to verify all the parameters.
- The Republic of Serbia is extremely committed to the EU accession process and is aware of its obligations as a candidate country for EU membership.
- The precondition for the opening of Chapter 27 of the Pre-Accession Treaty (representing 30% of the total accessibility obligations) is the preparation of a document on the implementation of environmental protection measures on old blocks.
- The Republic of Serbia will definitely request a transitional period (grace period).
- Errors are not accepted when designing new blocks.
- The SEVESO Directive applies to TPP Kostolac B and a plan for the protection against chemical accidents has been developed.
- The legislation of the Republic of Serbia prescribes a long-term and comprehensive procedure on the basis of which SEVESO operators obtain consent to the plan in question.
- Block B3 is obligated to obtain approval in accordance with the SEVESO Directive three months before the start of work.
- In drafting documentation related to the SEVESO directive for TPP "Kostolac B", a team of experts of at least 10 different specialties was hired.
- The results showed that in the case of the most serious accident, the consequences will have a local character.

- Although the SEVESO Directive does not regulate accidents that may occur on electrostatic precipitators, the Republic of Serbia included this issue in risk assessment for each block.
- Prior to commissioning block B3, this estimate will be delivered to the Romanian side.
- OCM "Drmino" was commissioned in 1985.
- During the first 5 years, the discovery was deposited outside the open cut mine (external landfill), and after that, or after the opening of the internal landfill, the overburden was deposited inside the open cut mine. Subsequently, the recultivation was carried out on an external landfill and land returned to agricultural purposes (vineyards and orchards were planted).
- The increase in production by 3 million tons per year will only increase the dynamics of exploitation (excavation and disposal); a 200-meter area between the work front and landfill site guarantees the disposal of overburden within the open cut mine in the period until 2050 (when the ending of exploitation is envisaged); the amount of overburden will amount to 1.4 billion m³, and coal production to 290 million tons.
- Information on the current state of water quality of the Danube River is public, and can be found on the website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia.
- It is emphasized that at the moment, the Republic of Serbia purifies only 8% of wastewater (obligation taken under Chapter 27 of the Pre-Accession Treaty)
- In the Environmental Impact Assessment Study for Block B3, it was said that the TPP Kostolac B plans to build a common wastewater treatment plant for all three blocks; this plant will purify all types of wastewater to the quality necessary for the discharge of wastewater into the recipient (surface water, i.e. Danube River); these facilities will be financed from pre-accession funds, for which the Republic of Serbia is waiting for Romania's support. The required limit values for pollutants in wastewater prior to discharge into the recipient according to the legislation of the Republic of Serbia are in accordance with the values stated in the new BREF document.
- The quality of the Danube River water will be slightly worsened by the discharge of wastewater from the TPP "Kostolac" (including discharge of return cooling water), given the high flow of the river itself compared to the wastewater flow.
- Monitoring the quality of the water of the main watercourses is being undertaken - Danube, Sava, Morava, and the results can be found on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, and they are sent to the EC.
- Block B3 is still not in function, and the impact of emissions from the TPP Kostolac A and B chimney in the territory of Romania is estimated by modeling the dispersion.
- Power plants that do not operate in accordance with the norms in Romania have not been shut down, but a transitional period has been established for them; it is not known whether penalties have been paid for non-compliance with the prescribed norms. An increase in temperature in the region is a global phenomenon that contributes to all sources, including Kostolac, but the individual contribution of the plant itself cannot be estimated.
- The Republic of Serbia does not conduct monitoring of deep underground waters (300-500 m).
- The Serbian delegation claims that the answers to these questions are part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study and that Romania has requested the implementation of Article 7 of the ESPOO Convention on Post-Project Monitoring, i.e. the submission of air quality/water quality monitoring reports, which will be annually delivered to Romania.

- The competent authorities of the Republic of Serbia for Water have given approval to the technical solutions for the cooling system of Block B3.
- Contribution of Block B3 will amount to an additional 30% compared to the current situation.
- In relation to the allowed increase in the temperature of the Danube River by 3°C (cyprinid waters), in the zone of mixing, an increase of maximal 0.5°C was calculated as the impact of all blocks of TPP Kostolac A and B; so the impact on water biodiversity is very small, and in addition, it is noticed that fish gather in areas with warmer water, especially during the colder months of the year.
- The Republic of Serbia is obliged to apply the best technical solutions.
- With regard to this project, the proposed technical solutions for block B3 are already in line with the latest BAT/BREF of the European Union, so their improvement in order to achieve more stringent marginal values is possible with minimal investments, when these values become binding for the Republic of Serbia. All these improvements that are already commercially available and implemented in developed countries will also be implemented in this case. Republic of Serbia plans to use ashes in road construction. Relevant regulations have already been adopted in the Republic of Serbia.

The question from NGO Bankwatch based in Bucharest were also delivered at the public hearing, in connection with the realization of the project:

1. Bearing in mind that on 17 August 2017 new standards LCP BREF (best available techniques for large combustion plants) were published in the Official Gazette of the European Union, as well as the fact that Kostolac B3 will fall under new plants (by the definition of LCP BREF, this is a plant that received an integrated environmental permit after publishing the LCP BREF document), we consider that the Kostolac B3 project should demonstrate whether there are opportunities and intentions for the implementation of these standards already at this stage.
2. Section 3.3.6 of the Report - *Display of waste treatment and environmental emissions systems* provides an overview of the limit values and standards currently in force in the Republic of Serbia. We do not consider that the Study shows that Kostolac B3 will respect these limit values in a credible way.
3. With regard to the existence of a separate study analyzing the impact of the extension of the lignite open cut mine Drmno on the environment (as evidenced by the response of the Serbian side published on the Ministry of Environment website) - why is this study not available to the interested public and why is it not the subject of EIA consultations in a transboundary context together with the B3 block construction project? As stated in the previous set of comments, we believe that the impact of these two activities on the environment should be assessed cumulatively - both the impact of the construction of a new block and the expansion of mining activities on Drmno. In order to provide additional fuel for the new block, it is mandatory to expand the open cut mine - which means that these two projects are interconnected. The ESPOO Convention Implementation Committee decided that the extension of the open cut mine belongs to the activities listed in Annex 1 to the Convention and that the possibility of significant transboundary impact cannot be excluded.
4. We demand the publication of urban documentation (maps) that would show how the lignite open cut mine Drmno will expand, in which direction, on what surface and in what time period.
5. In section 6.3.12 of the EIA Report - *Transboundary pollution*, on page 404 it is stated that "according to the analyzed multi-annual meteorological data it is unlikely that the

southeastern wind will blow (the frequency is about 6%)". Please provide us with this study.

6. In Table 6.3.13-1: *A summary evaluation of the environmental impact during the regular work of Block 3 of TPP Kostolac B* (page 405) states that the impact on the health of the population has a regional reach and moderate consequences (which is also the highest level of consequences shown in the table). *Monitoring of the health status of the population* is listed as a measure for reducing the impact. Please specify which authorities are responsible for this monitoring in the territory of Romania, by which mechanism will they analyze the results of the monitoring in relation to the Kostolac B3 project - how the exposure to transboundary emissions transported to Romania will be linked, and the health status of the population ascertained, and what is the reference base from which the tracking starts?

The project holder responded to all the questions asked and provided an opportunity to review the relevant information:

1. Block B3 was designed in accordance with the current requirements of the regulation 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, among other things, to apply certain regulations in the field of environmental protection. In the field of air protection, the obligations that apply to the new block of TPP Kostolac B3 are related to the implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive - Chapter III of 1 January 2018. The new block is designed in a way that its work is in line with the ELVs prescribed in IED - Chapter 3 or Annex 5, which means that it is in compliance with the most stringent ELVs applicable to new combustion plants.

The Republic of Serbia is in the process of EU accession, which implies the obligation to align national legislation with relevant EU regulations, among which are environmental regulations. In addition to transposing EU regulations into national legislation, during the negotiation process, deadlines will be defined in which individual plants will coordinate their work with the relevant EU regulations.

In addition, it should be emphasized that the competent authorities, the project holder and its designers, aware of the constant changes in the field of environmental protection, and in particular the protection of the air, following changes in the requirements for new technologies, have foreseen the possible improvements to the facility with minimal financial expenses. This is possible because the technologies envisioned on block B3 are in line with the newly adopted BAT conclusions for the LCP, so that potentially more stringent ELVs can be achieved without altering the basic technological solutions, with certain reconstructive operations that are commercially available.

2. In chapter 3.3.6 of the study, in the first part of the chapter (Part A. Presentation of the criteria for defining waste water treatment methods in the environment), an overview of the emission limit values for pollutants in the environment is given. The displayed limit values are part of the project parameters for each of the emission reduction systems foreseen by the block B3 design.

In the continuation of chapter 3.3.6 (Part B. Treatment of gaseous waste materials), a description of the technical solutions for achieving the specified emission limit values is given, as well as the input and output parameters of certain devices based on which the following project conditions are observed, as follows:

- The dimensions of the furnace and the performed thermal calculations show that the primary measures achieve NO_x emissions of 200 mg/m³
- Table 3.3.6-9 gives the basic size of the material and energy balance of the DFG

- Table 3.3.6-11 gives the basic design characteristics of dry and wet electro filter
- Table 3.3.6-13 gives the characteristics of the dust extraction devices in coal and limestone delivery systems
- Table 3.3.6-12 shows emissions of polluting substances into the air through flue gases from block B3.

Waste water that will be discharged into the recipient from block B3 will be treated in a common wastewater treatment plant for all three blocks. As a condition for water quality after purification, the Tender documents for the construction of a joint plant provide the limit values as well as Tables 3.3.6-1 to 3.3.6-4 (Reference 8 in Part C. Treatment of liquid waste materials).

The treatment of solid waste materials is covered by the landfill project, Chapter 3.3.4 of the Study, especially the part "Protection of soil and groundwater from the impact of landfill", where the criteria for designing as well as the description of the project solutions are listed.

3. In all objections and issues raised by regulatory bodies and non-governmental organizations, the expansion of Drmno open cut mine is discussed.

The change in the capacity of the open cut mine does not change the geometry of the open cut mine, more precisely, the boundaries of the open cut mine are not changed at all, and the exploitation continues in the exploitation boundaries of the main project from 2009 for the capacity of 9 million tons of coal per year. This means that there are no new occupied areas, the height and method of disposal will not change. In a certain period of time, the dynamics of the work will be changed, that is, the mining machinery will work with greater intensity, which is why, among other things, a new BTO system is purchased from the given Chinese loan. The coal mining and the way of export remain unchanged. All the facilities from the main project were entered into the Special Purpose Plan, for which a strategic environmental impact assessment was carried out.

The subject Environmental Impact Assessment Study for block B3 also took into account mining activities on the open cut mine in the part related to the analysis of the cumulative impacts of block B3 work with other plants in the area. Capacity increase i.e. the impact of combustion of larger amounts of coal was analyzed in the subject study for TEPPKO B3.

By analyzing the presented results of the calculation related to the assessment of the impacts of mining activities on the environment, it is concluded that the impacts of the OCM on air pollution with suspended matter are dominant, and that the extent of pollution in the area is close to the site of the mining works, i.e. in the immediate vicinity of the mine. This is due to the characteristics of the sources of pollution caused by the exploitation of coal (ground sources of low intensity and energy). In this way, the settlements located at the borders of the mine, the villages Drmno and Kličevac are potentially threatened. By applying measures to reduce the suspended matter diversion, which are prescribed as an obligation for the Drmno mine by the Ministry of the Environment, the levels of pollution are significantly lower than the limit values set in the current regulations. On the other hand, the influence of the emitted dry bulk solids from the chimney of the block B3 is extremely low, due to the emission method (high chimney with high flue gas velocity), and because of the low particle emissions itself (<10 mg/m³ flue gas), so the forecasted concentrations in the air around the TPP, in the area up to a distance of several tens of kilometers from the chimney, do not reach 5% of the limit value for the quality of ambient air.

On the basis of all of the foregoing, we consider that the cumulative impact of the work of the Blocks B3 and OCM Drmno is negligible, as well as the transboundary impact of these activities on the territory of Romania.

4. The requested urban documentation regarding the lignite open cut mine of Drmno (Referral Cards No. 2 and No. 6) is located within the Spatial Plan of the Special Purpose Basin of the Kostolac Coal Basin, which came into force in January 2013, with the complete map plan

published on 4 January 2013 on the website of the Serbian Agency for Spatial Planning (<http://www.rapp.gov.rs/sr-Latn-CS/rudarski-baseni/cid296-83227/prostorni-plan-podrucja-obebne-namene-kostolackog-coal-basin>) where it is still available today.

5. There is no special study on meteorological data. For the purposes of preparing the Study for block B3 by the authorized institution of Serbia dealing with meteorological measurements, the Republic Hydrometeorological Institute of Serbia, a set of meteorological parameters was bought for the MS Veliko Gradište for the period 2010-2014, based on hourly values (for 8760 sets of weather parameters for each year), as explained in Section 6.3.1. Impacts on air quality, part A Flue gas impact, Input parameters for calculations.

Based on the aforementioned hourly values, the master software sub-program used for the calculations of dispersion of pollutants in the near field accounts for the distribution of wind probability along the directions (wind rose), shown in Figure 6.3.1-4 in the form of the Average Rose of the Wind for the period 2010-2014. From the above picture, it can be concluded that the wind from the south-west direction has a probability of about 6%. In general, it can be seen that third-quadrant winds blowing into the territory of Romania have the lowest probability of blowing.

6. The health condition of the population is a consequence of the influence of numerous and various factors. Therefore, it is difficult to determine the precise share and impact of individual facilities on the health of the population, especially under the conditions where there are no evidences of pollution emission of pollutants, which can have a detrimental effect on health, into the environment.

We also emphasize that Table 6.3.13-1 states that, according to the adopted methodology, the intensity of the health impact is marked as "small", and that the overall result, which is rated as "medium", is a consequence of the long term operation of the thermal power plant, as well as its impact on the area beyond the boundaries of the facility itself.

Based on the requirements of the ESPOO Convention, Serbia has undertaken to report to Romania on the results of air quality and water quality measurement at the existing monitoring stations in the area of TPP Kostolac through relevant institutions (post-project monitoring).

Also, in Serbia, monitoring of the health status of the population is carried out, through analysis of the appearance of certain diseases depending on the demographic structure and other factors, according to the established methodology of the World Health Organization. Results are presented in annual reports that are available to the public.

We also assume that in Romania similar monitoring of the health status of the population is carried out.

On the same day, at the meeting of the authorities of Romania and Serbia responsible for environmental issues attended by the representatives of the project holder and the processors of the Study, at the request of the Romanian anti-government agency, it was defined that the Romanian side will be involved in the implementation of the post-project analysis through monitoring activities, and pursuant to Art. 7 of the ESPOO Convention, these requirements must be included in the final decision the competent authority will make in relation to the project in question.

At the request of Romania's competent authority, the project holder's obligation to send annual reports on the monitoring of pollutant emissions of pollutants into the air through an existing monitoring network. The same requirement applies to the monitoring of the Danube River water, upstream and downstream of the TPP "Kostolac" B, where the measurements will be carried out at the existing points of the national network for water monitoring, with the frequency of monitoring once a month and reporting once a year.

On 31 August 2017, the following Minutes were made:

1. Public Hearing Minutes

Held in Oravica, Romania, in accordance with Art. 3, item 8 of the ESPOO Convention for the Study of the environmental impact of the project proposal: Construction of the block TPP "Kostolac B3" by the Republic of Serbia

2. Public Consultations Minutes,

Held in Oravica, Romania, in accordance with Art. 5 of the ESPOO Convention for the Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the project proposal: Construction of the block TPP " Kostolac B3" by the Republic of Serbia

The Minutes were signed by Aleksandar Vesić, Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, Doina Catrinou, Vice President of the National Environmental Agency and Dorina Mocanu, Director General of the Directorate General for Impact Assessment and Pollution Control at the Romanian Ministry of Environmental Protection.

After implementation of the procedure defined by the national legislation and obligations arising from the ESPOO Convention ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" 102/07), by insight into the submitted document, supplemented and updated chapters, it was concluded that the processor has respected and complied with remarks and suggestions and in accordance with the same, amended the Study.

On the basis of everything stated, the reasons for the decision are as follows:

- Procedure prescribed by law was implemented that ensured participation of the public, interested bodies and organizations through advertising in printed media and through the website of the Ministry.
- A procedure was implemented that arises from the Law on the Confirmation of the Convention on the Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia 102/07) and, accordingly, Romania was informed. The document was translated into English and forwarded to the Romanian side.
- A public presentation and consultation are organized in the City Administration of Požarevac and Oravica in Romania in accordance with the impact assessment in the transboundary context.
- The public, interested bodies and organizations are allowed to submit remarks, opinions and comments.
- All the remarks and comments were reviewed at the Technical Commission meetings, and the project holder was asked to provide reasoned answers to the Study and supplement the Study.
- Block TPP Kostolac B3 is designed in accordance with the applicable national regulations - based on the Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia and planning documents.
- The proposed technical solutions for block B3 are harmonized with the BAT/BREF documents of the EU, so their improvement in order to achieve stricter marginal values is possible with minimum investments.
- The new block is designed in a way that its work is aligned with the ELVs prescribed in IED - Chapter 3, or the associated Annex 5, which practically means that it complies with the strictest ELVs applicable to new combustion plants.
- A description of the technical solutions for achieving the specified emission limit values for nitrogen and sulfur oxides, as well as carbon dioxide emissions, is given.

- A modeling of dispersion of pollutants has been done and it has been demonstrated that in the most unfavorable meteorological conditions and under full load of all TPP blocks, the maximum values of pollutant levels will reach half of the allowed concentrations defined for ambient air.
- The construction of a plant for purification of all types of wastewater for all three blocks is foreseen to the quality required for discharge into the recipient - the Danube River
- The SEVESO Directive applies to TPP Kostolac B and a plan for the protection against chemical accidents has been developed.
- The health status of the population will be monitored through analyzes of the appearance of certain diseases depending on the demographic structure and other factors, according to the established methodology of the World Health Organization. The results will be displayed in annual reports that are available to the public.

Approval to the document may be given, because it provides sufficient data on the basis of which it is possible to assess the eligibility of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and eliminate possible adverse impacts of the project on the state of the environment at the site and its surroundings, during project implementation, plant operation, in the event of an accident and after cessation of operation of the plant.

Based on the implemented procedure and the proposal of the Technical Commission, it was decided as in the wording of the decision.

In accordance with Article 28, paragraph 1 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", 135/04 and 36/09), the project holder is obliged, within two years from the day of receiving this decision, to start carrying out the project from item 1 of this decision.

The Decision and the Environmental Impact Assessment Study are an integral part of the documentation necessary for obtaining a permit or approval for the commencement of the project implementation, in accordance with Article 18 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, 135/04 and 36/09).

Pursuant to Article 33 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", 135/04 and 36/09), and Article 198, paragraph 3 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure ("Official Gazette of FRY" 33/97, 31/2001), a conclusion was reached on the costs of the proceedings.

Instruction of legal remedy: This decision is final in the administrative procedure. Against the same, an administrative dispute can be initiated by submitting a complaint to the competent court, within 30 days from the date of its delivery, or from the date of publication in the media, in accordance with the provisions of the Law on General Administrative Procedure.

