

Water Resource Protection from the Mining Activities

Ivica Ristović, Faculty of Mining and Geology, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Natural resources exploitations deteriorate, threaten and pollute environment. Mining exploitation, haulage, preparation and production of the minerals have adverse impacts on the environment. Besides to that, mining activities are associated to the non renewable resources. Mining activities have adverse effects on all aspects of the environment, i.e., soil, air and water. The land is deteriorated by immense soil digging and the change in the landscape, utilization of the machinery, tailings from the exploitation and from the mineral processing, etc. The air is the most polluted from the plants for the elementary and secondary processing of the minerals, metals, etc.

However, the most affected aspect of the environment is water, the resources that is named by UN as a resource of the 21 century based on its importance.

Surface and ground water are jeopardized during all of the mining activities, i.e., exploitation, transportation, preparation, production and deposition of the waste

This paper presents possible negative effects of the mining activities on the environment and the protection measures that have to be implemented to protect water resources.