

Serbia: EPS to shut down 1500MW in smaller TPPs, Unions request different approach and support Chinese investments into old facilities modernization

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The announcement of the shut down of smaller EPS power generation TPPs like Morava, as well as the coal mines in the next ten years ignited the red light in this companies. This shut down plans includes TPPs Kolubara, Morava and Obrenovac smaller units under 200MW with installed power of 1500MW. This plants should be preserved and modernized. With their connected coal-electricity system production process this plants could be profitable for the state or the new foreign owner.

The connection of power generation facilities thermal power plants and coal production in one system is positive practice in the Europe stated TENT Power plants Union leader Bogdan Vukotic and his union colleague from coal underground mine Resavica Goran Nikolic on the meeting with thermal power plant Morava Svilajnac director Marija Stevanovic. Underground coal mines have significant coal reserves in estimated amount of 100 billion Eur and with connection to the planed investments in the power generation, domestic or foreign, this energy resource could be useful for Serbia. Serbia would not need to import electricity and jobs would be preserved.

Foreign investors, most likely Chinese companies, are interested to invest 100MEUR in TPP Morava, in its modernization and capacity increase of existing power generation units or into construction of new 125MW unit. With activation of Poljane mine near Despotovac with its annual production of 1,2 mil tons of lignite, the mine would secure sufficient quantities of coal for new power generation capacities in Svilajnac Morava TPP, it was stated on the meeting.

Union leaders are asking from government of Serbia to allow Resavica mine company to become again the part of EPS (Electric power company of Serbia). Supporting this idea the director of Morava TPP explained that this request is realistic and beneficial for EPS as TPPMorava capacities are projected on the coal from Resavica mine.

She added that the preservation of TPP Morava, foreign investment into modernization and construction of new unit, along with Resavica mine preservation would be proper strategy for economic prosperity of this part of Serbia including all municipalities which host underground lignite mines.

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