

Serbia: New lignite coal mine important for the future of power system says Energy Minister

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Minister of Energy, Development and Environment Protection, Prof. Dr. Zorana Mihajlovic visited the Office for the Coordination of activities related to open pit mine "Radljevo", which officially began to work yesterday in UB, and on that occasion said that the project of starting a new coal mine within the Mining Basin "Kolubara" had full support of the Government of Serbia. After the working meeting, which was attended by director of MB "Kolubara" Milorad Grcic and Mayor of Ub Darko Glisic, Minister Mihajlovic has expressed satisfaction over the fact that started the project implementation, which was of great importance for the future of Serbia power system.

-We expect the first tons of coal from "Radljevo" will start in the next few years, which is one of the prerequisites for maintaining production of "Kolubara" and stability of our power system. In the first phase, it is planned the annual production to be about 7.5 million tons of coal, and the required value for this investment is between 140 and 200MEUR, and this data speak enough about the importance of this investment - said Zorana Mihajlovic.

Milorad Grcic, director of MB "Kolubara", said that the launch of offices in Ub was symbolically important event for this subsidiary and added:

-Starting a new mine is a perennial job that requires detailed planning and investments of hundreds of MEUR. The progress of mining machinery changes the look of complete municipalities and I think that Ub has a privilege that such an important project would be realized precisely in its territory. I expect that we will, through joint efforts, fail to fulfill the plans and, within a few years, to start lignite production at new mine.

The Mayor of UB, Darko Glisic thanked the Minister Mihajlovic and the Serbian government for the support and understanding that they have shown in the past, when it comes to the opening of "Radljevo".

- Ub is lucky that this will be a place of such large investments and I hope that it will be the growth engine of our entire municipality - said Glisic.

Source; Serbia Energy