

The government of Bosnia's Federation entity said it has declined to issue a new environmental permit to metallurgical coke producer Global Ispat Coking Industry Lukavac (GIKIL) after the company failed to meet environmental standards.

The Federation's environment protection ministry could not issue the permit to GIKIL's coke, chemical products and energy production complex located in the northeastern town of Lukavac since the company had failed to implement the necessary measures for reducing pollution and is continuing to pollute the environment of Lukavac, the Tuzla canton and the wider area, the entity's government said in a statement.

According to an environmental permit issued in January 2012, GIKIL was obliged to invest 111.4 million marka (\$63 million/57 million euro) in technological updates aimed at reducing poisonous gas emissions. Yet, it has invested only 4.1 million marka, demonstrating "an extreme lack of seriousness concerning protection of the environment and disrespect to human rights to healthy environment, living and property," the statement reads.

It provided no information on the next measures that will be taken against GIKIL.

According to earlier media reports, the company's environmental permit expired in January 2017.

GIKIL was formed in 2003 as a joint venture between Bosnia's state-controlled coking plant KHK Lukavac and Indian steel maker Ispat Group.

Source: seenews.com