

Bosnia's Ugljevik coal-fired power plant, one of the biggest polluters in the Balkans, has completed a three-year cleanup, it said, to help it reduce gas emissions and meet European Union standards.

The cleanup of the 300 megawatt (MW) plant, which cost nearly 80 million euros (\$88 million), will reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from current levels of around 16,000 milligram per cubic meter (mg/m³) - or 60 times more than indicative amounts in the EU regulations - to 250 mg/m³, the plant said.

It is operated by Bosnia's second-biggest power utility Elektroprivreda RS (ERS) and generates 8% of the country's electricity.

The Ugljevik and the Kostolac coal-power plant in neighboring Serbia accounted for half of all SO₂ pollution from coal plants in the Western Balkans and were responsible for around a quarter of all coal SO₂ emissions in the EU and the Balkans combined, according to environmental activists.

Zlatko Malovic, the project manager, said that Ugljevik would now be one of the cleanest power plants in the region.

The project was financed by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and will also extend the plant's lifespan by 25 years.

Source: reuters.com