

## Montenegro's Elektroprivreda is seeking approval for the discharge of wastewater into the river Vezisnica

Due to the increase in the water level at the Montenegrin landfill Maljevac, which is already about six meters, Elektroprivreda Crne Gore (EPCG) asked the Administration for Inspection Affairs and other competent services to approve the re-discharge of wastewater into the river Vezisnica in a controlled and environmentally friendly way. EPCG refers to the integrated permit for the operation of the Thermal Power Plant, issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, which recognizes the generation of wastewater at certain locations, including those from Maljevac.

By the order of the Environmental Inspection, the valve was armored after the great fish death in July last year, for which a court procedure is underway before the Basic Court in Pljevlja. Environmentalists estimate that the opening of the valve would lead to a new destruction of the rivers Vezisnica and Cehotina, which are already among the most polluted in Europe.

According to Elektroprivreda, it is indisputable that TPP Pljevlja acts in accordance with the established deadlines and conditions determined by that permit from the fact that at the beginning of November 2019 a decision was made on the selection of the most favorable offer for the ecological reconstruction project of TPP. for the collection, processing and treatment of wastewater with a deadline of 2022.

EPCG also warns that in the immediate vicinity of the landfill there is a landslide on which an energy facility was built, through which activities of public interest are also performed, and with the first rainy days it can be expected with certainty that the dam will overflow and collapse.

Fishermen and ecologists from Pljevlja warn that this would further endanger the environment. They point out that the Vezisnica upstream of the TPP is of normal appearance, while downstream its bed is covered with white paint, which calls into question the observance of environmental inspection measures.

The Sports and Fishing Club "Lipljen" claims that the wastewater from the TPP is still discharged into Vezisnica through some unknown channels.

"Great waters this year cleared the ground and it was identical above and below the TPP. However, a few days ago we saw that the Vezisnica riverbed was white and cemented, which means that in a way these waters still end up in the river, of course not under the cover of day," said Vaso Knezevic from SRK "Lipljen".

With the death of the fish, last year the entire ecosystem in the length of 15 kilometers of Vezisnica and Cehotina was destroyed.

Milorad Mitrovic from the NGO "Breznica" reminds that Vezisnica and Cehotina are one of the most polluted rivers in Europe. He warns that EPCG is in a big problem because the

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environmental reconstruction project is significantly delayed and claims that the TPP has already spent 20,000 allowed working hours.

"They had enough time to think about how they can discharge these dangerous waters more painlessly, but it is obvious that there will be problems and stability of that dam if there is rain and snow and I just don't know how they will solve that problem", Mitrovic said.

It would be best, Mitrovic points out, to close the TPP until the reconstruction.

"Because even with that ecological reconstruction, it is significantly late. They spent all working hours, so I don't see how they will decide that the TPP is working at the same time, and that the ecological reconstruction is progressing at the same time," said Mitrovic.

The Pljevlja Thermal Power Plant did not answer Vijesti's questions about these problems.

Source: vijesti.me