

MiningSEE, Serbia: Selection of optimal open cast coal mine opening and development variant

By investing into capital projects, mining companies implement previously defined growth targets, policies and business strategies. Investment projects in mining are of capital nature because their CAPEX is high, resources significant and implementation period long. At the same time they promote development, sustainable growth and ensure a competitive advantage for the mining company.

Projects involving the opening of new coal mines operated by the Electric Power Industry of Serbia support its strategic development goals, while throughout their implementation, internal and external development factors must be taken into account, as well as a number of restrictions arising from the socio-economic environment.

Selection of optimal open cast mine opening and development variants is based on organized, systematized and fundamental studies of different natural, technical and economic determinants of a mining project.

The topic of the Radljevo open cast mine project management model in Kolubara coal basin was studied by a group of authors from the Electric Power Industry of Serbia, Vladimir Ivos, Slobodan Mitrovic and Aleksandar Vucetic.

Radljevo open cast mine opening and development project is a multidisciplinary and complex task requiring complex research and development of study and technical documentation in the field of spatial planning, expropriation, environmental protection, geology, mining engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, construction, IT technologies, procurement of various types of services, basic and auxiliary equipment at the mine and finally open cast mine opening and development works ensuring its full capacity. The value of investments until 2022 is about half billion euros.

The process model covering project management and development of the Radljevo open cast mine until its designed capacity is based on the current know-how in the field of project management and is in line with best practice in the field of mining projects. However, the process model is not sufficient to successfully implement the project. A developed project management system should include an entire process model at the appropriate level of detail, procedures developed for each process, according to the model.

Given the complexity of capital mining projects, this project management model with relevant procedures is a basis for the project management system and it makes a reliable basis for efficient and effective implementation of the Radljevo open cast mine project.