

The Feasibility Study will show whether there are sufficient waste amounts, necessary for stable power plant operation.

As long as it is cheaper and easier to dispose the trash in landfills, but to process it, and use it for heat or electricity generation, the use of municipal waste in Serbia will be in the second plan.

The only thing that could change that bad habit of throwing the trash at illegal landfills, which now there are more than 3,000, is, two days ago signed Memorandum of Understanding with Chinese partners, which envisages the construction of power plants using municipal waste in the city of Pancevo.

This was confirmed by the Minister of Energy in technical government, Mr. Aleksandar Antic, who signed the Memorandum, pointing out, that this is the first power plant that would use waste as fuel. This new plant would be built in Pancevo, because, this municipality is defined as the first in which Chinese partners would do analysis and studies. Asked when the beginning of construction may be expected, Antic said, that the key issue is for Chinese partners to develop reliable Feasibility Study, and to prove that Pancevo has necessary amounts of waste required for stable power plant operation.

- This will be a pilot project, for the case if the power plant deliver expected results, such facilities could be built in other parts of Serbia as well - Antic said.

Coincidentally or not, the story about the use of municipal waste for electricity generation, came as a "medicine to the wound" - in moment when oil and gas prices begin to increase again, which could encourage more serious interest in waste as an energy source.

This has not been the case, up until now, as evidenced according to data that in our country, only two cement plants are using a small part of 2.2 million tons of waste per year.

Mr. Slobodan Ruzic, PhD in engineering science, and a former Deputy Minister of Energy, said for "Politika" that this is a good news, even though it is an expensive project, because it would, in this way, solve the problem of illegal landfills.

-- The decision on whether the municipal waste power plant would be build, will depend on the price at which electricity will be redeemed. Given that, we are talking about the type of renewable energy sources, in Serbia we have prescribed feed in tariffs, and incentive purchase prices per generated kilowatt per hour of this electricity.

Until recently, this price was about eight euro cents, while the electricity that is sold to households. This means that the electricity price from waste is more expensive - he said.

Under the conditions in Serbia, where everyone looks to get by cheaper, when it comes to electricity, it is unlikely that anyone agreed to buy municipal waste electricity, when EPS 's is by far the cheapest - says Ruzic. He explains that Belgrade has the most potential to

supply the future power plant with sufficient amounts of waste, and it is not clear for him. Why Pancevo is considered as location for such plant, but that we should wait for Chinese partners to say their word.

In the region, he adds, there are no similar power plants, reminding that EPS, in 2009, signed, with Uzice, Memorandum on the construction of such plant at the landfill in Duboko, but there was a lot of resistance of people, due to waste incineration.

That is why in Germany this work is developed so much that one percent of waste is going to landfills, and the rest is processed. Germans have more than 6,000 plants for heat and electricity production from municipal waste.

It is possible to get 650 kilowatt-hours of electricity from one ton of waste, estimations showed. Use level of waste for electricity generation is 25 to 30 percent, while for thermal energy is 75 to 80 percent.