

## The construction of the settlement on Makis in Belgrade will leave the residents without drinking water

The city authorities plan to allow the construction of 4.5 million square meters of residential and business space on 700 hectares of the protected hygienic-sanitary zone on Makiško polje.

Professor Ljubiša Ignjatović from the Faculty of Physical Chemistry sent a request to the members of the Belgrade Assembly not to vote for the adoption of the Plan for detailed regulation of Makiško polje because any construction in that area would seriously endanger Belgrade's water supply. In an interview with the Beta agency, Professor Ignjatović says that in that case, if housing construction begins near the reni well on Makiško polje, most of Belgrade will surely be left without drinking water, and residents will be instructed to buy bottled water in markets.

The members of the Assembly of Belgrade, the professor added, are our fellow citizens and neighbors, and they should not allow themselves to be ashamed one day why they will vote on Tuesday. He stated that in the protected zone of the Makiš water intake, the construction of a settlement of 13,000 apartments for more than 40,000 inhabitants is planned, and with countless accompanying facilities. Ignjatović said that the construction of the subway in that area, with stations and a subway depot, will also have a great impact on groundwater pollution.

"That new settlement would very quickly pollute the water in the wells that are located in the immediate vicinity, and the city would be left without drinking water," said Ignjatović, who teaches Environmental Protection at the Faculty of Physical Chemistry.

Ignjatović says that the widest possible public discussion and consultation with the profession had to be held about the possible construction in the area of the protected zone of the Makiški water intake, and not that the citizens should be informed through the media before the almost finished act.

"From the fifties of the last century until today, this large hygienic-sanitary zone has been carefully guarded for a reason, and Belgrade has always had quality drinking water.

"Thanks to those protected rain wells along the Sava, Belgrade is almost the only European capital where tap water is healthy to drink," Ignjatovic explained.

"Reni wells along the Sava have horizontal drains and the water that reaches them is filtered through multi-layered sediments of natural origin. When these sediments are polluted, they will never be able to be cleaned or regenerated again ", said Professor Ignjatović.

He reminded that the Makiš water intake with dozens of reni wells 20-30 meters deep used to be a big investment.

"It was a masterpiece of geo-profession and construction. The construction of these reni

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wells in the world was known and appreciated as the “Belgrade method”. “Belgrade is the first in the world in terms of the number of reni wells, in relation to the number of inhabitants and the area,” he said.

When asked how the residents of Belgrade should behave in a situation when they are facing running out of drinking water, Ignjatović said that the job of scientists is not to call for riots and protests, but that citizens should demand more transparent decisions from the city authorities regarding their health.

### **BVK: The plan for Makiško polje does not endanger the water source**

The urbanization envisaged by the detailed regulation plan for Makiško polje does not endanger the water source located in that area, they say in JKP Beogradski vodovod i kanalizacija (BVK), reports Tanjug.

Part of the public claims that the adoption of that plan will endanger the water supply of citizens, and the executive director for development, design and investments of that company, Vladimir Milojević, rejects those claims as incorrect, explaining that they issued strict conditions for Makiško polje that are in accordance with the law. and which will prevent the Belgrade spring from being endangered. He adds that JKP “Belgrade Waterworks and Sewerage” participated in the development of that plan by issuing conditions for the preservation of the Belgrade spring, water supply and preservation of infrastructure facilities of the water supply and sewerage system in Makiško polje.

Milojević also notes that with the adoption of that Plan, “Belgrade Waterworks” will get new clean water pipelines to important points, namely Železnik and Žarkovo.

“Our company was given the opportunity to replace pipelines that are more than 50 years old with new ones, it was given the opportunity for infrastructure facilities, such as tanks and pumping stations in that area, to be reconstructed as well,” said Milojević.

Source: politika.rs