

The location near the Jadar River in Serbia is estimated to contain ten percent of the total lithium reserves that have been discovered in the world so far. The domestic branch of the world company Rio Tinto is preparing for the excavations of jadarite, a mineral that contains lithium and boron. How will they protect people living around the Jadar River from pollution? Vesna Prodanović, the director of the company Rio Sava Exploration, spoke about that for TV Prva. As she says, the importance of this site and project is to raise the mining and industrial sector in Serbia. Prodanovic says that there is great concern for ecology and environmental protection, and that she shares the concern with the citizens.

She points out that there are risks that they have seen, as well as that they are taking all measures to reduce that. "So, if we take water and if we treat it, we release that water through a process for water purification which is very serious and in which we invest a lot of resources, in order to release water of sufficient quality into further streams. All measures and standards for ecology that are prescribed we apply." She says that today's standards are not like decades ago. Companies have neither the right nor the ability to work in such a way that they do not apply the measures. "We also have that obligation and we will implement all measures." Funds in the amount of 100 million euros are intended for environment.

Will mine water be pumped out of rivers?

"From the area around the river Drina, from those parts that have already been devastated, the whole process of using water is closed – water is used first from precipitation, then water that appears when digging mines. We have water purification systems. We have a meeting in Loznica tomorrow. working groups where our experts will explain in detail some technical solutions that we apply ", said Prodanović.

The space you will use covers almost 294 square kilometers. How many locals will have to leave their homes and how will they be compensated? How does it work with the local community?

"Cooperation is good and based on fair principles. There is great concern and it is a really sensitive issue. We need to buy about 250 hectares, 350 owners, land and movable and immovable property, but what is most sensitive – 52 families need to move. We work with each of them individually, not only to make a fair compensation program in terms of financial support, but there is also a large intangible support, "Prodanovic explained.

Will there be Jadarite processing factories or will the raw materials just go abroad?

"As I mentioned, one third of the project refers to the mining part, and two thirds to the industrial part. We are doing the process right here and we are getting the final product," she stated.

## Will Serbia become a superpower in lithium production?

Source: [b92.net](http://b92.net)