

Meeting Minute

Concluded today, 30th of January 2007 during the meeting of the Workgroup established for the development of the environmental assessment procedure, with the purpose of preparing the Environmental Report for the Zonal Urban Plan entitled “Alteration of Zonal Urban Plan – Industrial Area Rosia Montana”.

The meeting agenda for this meeting has the following points:

1. General Overview of “Alteration of Zonal Urban Plan – Industrial Area Rosia Montana”
2. General Overview of the environmental assessment procedure for plans and programs
3. Comparative Analysis of the content of Environmental Report proposed by the consultants’ team and of the provisions of Governmental Decision no. 1076/2004, Annex no. 2
4. Approval of the content of the report proposed by the consultants’ team
5. Presentation of environmental factors/aspects proposed to be assessed in the environmental report, examples being provided for the environmental factor called air of the environmental objectives (general or specific), of targets and indicators.

Under the first point of the meeting agenda, Mr. Horea Avram presents the purpose of establishing the workgroup: to prepare the impact assessment report for ZUP – Industrial Area Rosia Montana or SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment), the input of each member of the workgroup that has been established for this purpose.

Mr. Avram underlines the fact that Abrud Mayoralty has a plan to establish a Waste Management Project and RMGC intends to cooperate with the Mayoralty in this Project.

The European Convention on Landscape is discussed.

Mr. Avram starts the presentation of the strategic and specific objectives, targets and indicators for environmental factors: population; wastes management; water (it is stated that RMGC has requested the creation of a model for pollutants dispersion following a potential accident to the Reading University from England. This model will be used in the future both in case of emergency and on similar water courses); air (it is stated that RMGC Impact study has not highlighted concentrations that would exceed current in force standards and limits).

Mrs. Cecilia Szentesy presents the alterations brought to the new ZUP Industrial Area Rosia Montana compared to the 2002 ZUP. That ZUP, endorsed and with an environmental permit secured, examines only a 5 year period from the development of the mine with only 2 open pits.

Due to the fact that changes have occurred in the legislation together with the approach on the development period of Zonal Urbanism Plans, through the new ZUP of Industrial

Area Rosia Montana, it is intended the examination of a 25 year period so as to cover all operational stages: construction, operations, closure, and post-closure, to provide a big picture of the entire project. The new ZUP studies a 25 year period and describes all the abovementioned stages. The main alterations brought by the new ZUP have resulted from the public consultations and from our desire to reduce the environmental impact together with a better protection of cultural, architectural and archeological heritage, and consists of: remodeling the open pits, development of two open pits on the north side of Rosia Valley that were provided only as an intent under the 2002 ZUP, a new acid waters dam to stop pollution, significant increase of the protected area to include a landscape area – recreational area, all for a better protection of the environment and of the cultural heritage.

Another alteration is related to the technological water supply from Aries River through a pipeline of 1.5Km that will be located in the territory of Campeni, this pipeline will be buried and with an insignificant impact on environment.

All these alterations are also presented in the EIA Report and in the documentations submitted at the local councils from Project's area.

Mrs. Szentesy underlines the fact that the mining activity (especially the blasting procedures) described under the ZUP – Industrial Area Rosia Montana does not impact the protected area of Rosia Montana. Bucharest Technical University conducted an experiment based on movement sensors placed on historic buildings from the protected area so as the blasting procedures conducted in the open pit would not be felt at these buildings.

Other protected areas are also included within the ZUP: the roman funerary monument from Gauri Lake, Piatra Corbului, Piatra Despicata and Carpeni area.

Mrs. Stefania Chiriac speaks about environmental assessment procedure for plans and programs by presenting the main steps of the procedure, including the preparation of the environmental report. She presents the fact that the initial ZUP for the Industrial Area of Rosia Montana has been endorsed and received its environmental permit. The current environmental assessment will not be limited to the alterations occurred at the new ZUP.

This environmental assessment results from the Directive 2001/42/EC of the Parliament of European Council on the assessment of the environmental impacts of certain plans and programs that has been transposed in the national legislation through Governmental Decision no 1076/2004. The fact that the directive was transposed implied implementation of the environmental assessment procedure and in smaller degree the process. Environmental Assessment Reports are currently prepared in Romania that are in fact Impact Studies with their chapters arranged in a different manner.

In this project, the request of an environmental report after completion of the EIA Study represents a step back for RMGC. We need to cope with this disadvantage and the fact that we have an environmental impact study already complete will assist us to prepare the environmental report easily.

Mrs. Chiriac presents the entire procedure that needs to be followed by the Environmental Assessment with all the steps to be taken and the relevant authorities:

- a) Framing stage: The titleholder is obligated to notify in writing the environmental competent authorities and to inform the public on the initiation of the preparation process of the plan and on the fact that the first draft of the plan was prepared. This is to be conducted by repeated announcements published in the mass-media and by posting them on its own webpage.
- b) The stage of completing the draft plan and preparation of the environmental report: The workgroup needs to be established with representatives from environmental and health competent authorities and with representatives from other authorities with responsibilities on environmental protection or other interested factors;
- c) The stage of analyzing the quality of report and of taking the decision: The titleholder submits at competent and interested authorities the draft plan and the environmental report that are to be analyzed by a Special Taskforce Committee in order to take the decisions. The environmental competent authorities take the decision of issuing the environmental permit.

Mrs. Chiriac presents an example of environmental report prepared by a Danish group (based on matrixes, tables, maps, presented under a concentrated format) that is reduced from quantity point of view if compared to the RMGC EIA Study.

The competence for issuing environmental permits for county and local plans lays with the Regional Agencies for Environmental Protection and the competency for regional and national plans lays with the Ministry.

It is stated that the EIA procedure (finalized with the preparation of Report on EIA Study and issuance of the environmental approval) and the environmental assessment procedure (finalized with the preparation of an environmental report and issuance of environmental permit) could have went hand in hand provided that the Romanian environmental legislation wouldn't have underwent such many changes.

Under the point no. 2 Mrs. Stefania Chiriac presents the content of Environmental Report on each chapter as proposed by the consultants' team compared with the provisions under Annex no. 2 of Governmental Decision no. 1076/2004 that includes the framework content of an Environmental Report. Therefore, the proposed content will consist of: Chapter 1: Introduction – supplementary chapter; Chapter 2: Content and main objectives of the plan Alteration of ZUP Industrial Area Rosia Montana; Chapter 3: Current status of the environmental within the area of Alteration of ZUP Industrial Area Rosia Montana – presentation of Alternative 0 of the Project; Chapter 4: Current Environmental Aspects relevant for area of Alteration of ZUP Industrial Area Rosia Montana – environmental characteristics of the area and relevant environmental issues for ZUP area; Chapter 5: The environmental protection objectives relevant for Alteration of ZUP Industrial Area Rosia Montana; Chapter 6: Assessment methodology of environmental impacts generated by the Alteration of ZUP Industrial Area Rosia Montana – it is a supplementary chapter that is considered as being useful and necessary; Chapter 7: Assessment of potential significant environmental impacts associated with Alteration of ZUP Industrial Area

Rosia Montana; Chapter 8: Prevention and Mitigation Measures of environmental negative impacts following the implementation of the provisions under Alteration of ZUP Industrial Area Rosia Montana; Chapter 9: Alternatives Assessment; Chapter 10: Proposals regarding the monitoring of significant effects of implementation of the plan: Alteration of ZUP Industrial Area Rosia Montana; Chapter 11: Non technical summary; Chapter 12: Conclusions and recommendations – supplementary chapter, being considered as necessary where the conclusions to the environmental assessment of ZUP and the recommendations necessary to be considered when drafting the final version of ZUP are presented.

Mrs. Chiriac asks the participants to approve this proposal of content for the Environmental Report and before that, any observations or alterations of this contents proposal as necessary.

Mrs. Barbat suggests that the assessment and maybe the completion of the content on chapters should be done during the development of the procedure, as necessary.

The titleholder through Mr. Horea Avram asks the members of the workgroup to nominate other plans or programs that may influence or are influenced by the analyzed ZUP. The following plans have been nominated by the members of the workgroup: Closure Plan of Rosiamin (Mr. Babut Sorin – Rosiamin); General Urbanism Plan (PUG) for the impacted localities (Mr. Horea Avram – RMGC); Forestry Development Plans of the impacted localities (Mrs. Joldis Tatiana – Bucium Mayoralty); Regional/Local Environmental Action Plan and Regional/Local Wastes Management Plan (Mrs. Doina Barbat – Alba Environmental Protection Agency); Management Plan at basin level – Mures (Mrs. Doina Popovici – SGA Turda); National Plan for Restoration of Historic Monuments (Mr. Matei Drimborean, County Culture Directorate); County and Local Plan for Analysis and Coverage of Risks (Mr. Gruia, Alba Iulia Emergency Inspectorate); The Plan of Hazards at regional and county levels (MRs. Marginean Eugenia – Alba County Council); Local Development Strategy of the City of Abrud (Mrs. Plesa – Abrud Mayoralty); Pedologic Study on Soil Quality conducted by the Institute of Pedologic and Agro-Chemical Researches from Bucharest (Mr. Marginean Ioan – Alba OSPA); Local/Regional Health Plan (Alba ASP ???); ZUP Historic Area Rosia Montana; Alba County Territory Development Plan (2001); Alba County Development Strategy (draft); the Plan for the development of activities alternative to mining (ALburnus Maior).

Under the 3rd point of the agenda, Mrs. Chiriac presents the environmental factors/aspects provided under Governmental Decision 1076/2004 and under Annex 1 of SEA Directive, as follows: biodiversity; population; human health; fauna; flora; soil/land use; water; air; climate factors; material values; cultural heritage; architectonical and archeological heritage and landscape.

There are 13 factors established through Governmental Decision, but the consultants' team has proposed other 3 environmental factors/aspects due to the particularity of this plan: wastes management, noise and road infrastructure/transport. Also, the consultants' team has proposed that some of the environmental factors/aspects to be coupled, as

follows: biodiversity with flora and fauna and the cultural heritage with the architectural and archeological heritage. Members of the workgroup agree with these proposals. Therefore, 13 environmental factors/aspects will be analyzed within the environmental report.

From these 13 factors/aspects, the consultants' team considered that the population will be directly impacted due to the particularity of this plan, and it has the first priority for assessment. Through the large volumes of wastes generated by the implementation of the plan/project and due to their various types, the environmental aspect "wastes management" has been considered also as of major importance. The water is the most impacted environmental factor given the current circumstances and must receive a special importance. The air is a factor that will be potentially impacted. The noise is associated with air. The matrix that comprises the environmental factors/aspects, strategic and specific environmental objectives, targets and indicators presents also the other environmental factors/aspects in an order established by the consultants' team, as follows: Biodiversity, Cultural, Architectural and Archeological Heritage, Human Health, Road Infrastructure/Transport, landscape, Soil, Material values, Climate Factors. This order can be altered during the preparation of the Environmental Report.

Collaboration is requested if the participants consider that new factors need to be introduced.

Mrs. Marginean asks if the validity term for ZUP is 25 years and if the environmental assessment will cover the entire period for each year or for the stages covered by the development of the project.

Mrs. Chiriac answers that the mitigation measures of the impact are provided for the main stages of the project not for years, and exemplifies how this will be accomplished for the factor called "air".

Mr. Gurber asks if the seismicity and the shock wave are not considered as environmental factors.

Mrs. Chiriac answers this is a hazard.

Mr. Gruber suggests including seismicity as a separate factor.

It is decided that the seismicity should be introduced under noise and vibration chapter because it is not about natural seismicity but the vibrations caused by blasting.

Mr. MArginean Ioan – Land rehabilitation – the vegetal soil must be stripped from the operational areas and stored for future reutilization.

Mr. Avram answers that there are 5 stockpiles of vegetal soil provided.

Mr. Avram states that until the next meeting, the consultants' team will complete the table of strategic/specific objectives, targets and indicators. This table will be sent by email to each member of the workgroup in due time so as to allow analysis and formation of comment until the future meeting.

Mrs. Szentesy thanks participants for their presence within the workgroup meeting and expresses her hope that that the following meeting the attendance will be as high and active as at this one.

Participants:

CHIRIAC STEFANIA	SC AGRARO CONSULT SRL
SZENTESY CECILIA	SC Rosia Montana Gold Corporation SA
AVRAM HOREA	SC Rosia Montana Gold Corporation SA
BOBAR HADRIAN	SC Rosia Montana Gold Corporation SA
GRUIA, Capitan	Alba Emergency Inspectorate
KALANYOS CRISTIAN	Alba County Council
MARGINEAN EUGENIA	Alba County Council
MARGINEAN IOAN	OSPA Alba
BRUSTUR LUCIA	AN Romanian Waters Targu Mures
BALINT IULIU	Targu Mures Romanian Waters Directorate
POPOVICI DOINA	Aries Hydro-technical System
CALIN HONDOR	WMC
SERGIU MIHUT	USI
SELAGEA LIVIU	SC Cuprumin SA Abrud
MAIER VASILE	County Directorate of Roads and Bridges
TIMIS EMILIA	Environmental National Guard
ONAC FELICIA	Alba Prefect Office
BARBAT DOINA	Alba Environmental Protection Agency
TODEA VASILE	Alba Environmental Protection Agency
TODONI SIMION	MINVEST SA Deva
GRUBER GHEORGHE	Pro Rosia
BABUT SORIN	Deva Filiala Rosiamin SA
PLESA VIRGINIA	Abrud Mayoralty
JURCA VIOLETA	Rosia Montana Mayoralty
TATIANA	
JOLDIS TATIANA	Bucium Mayoralty
DRIMBAREAN MATEI	County Directorate for Culture, Religious Affairs and National Patrimony
ISPAS IOAN	Sibiu Regional Agency for Environmental Protection
CERGA VIORICA	Sibiu Regional Agency for Environmental Protection