

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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Environmental impact assessment before the development of mine allows to determine the initial condition of the environment, the level of anthropogenic impact on the landscape and environment, as well as long-term effects of potential contaminations while carrying out the process of mining. The procedures and rules of environmental impact assessment are determined by a number of specific documents issued and approved by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus. Within the EIA procedure it is obligatory to discuss the taken steps with public whose legitimate rights and interest might be disturbed when implementing the projects. The main types of environmental impact during the development of deposits are the withdrawal of land for temporary use, the violation of the natural state of the soil cover, soil and relief, the removal of trees and shrubs, and the violation of the natural hydrological regime. To assess the degree of soil pollution and determine the degree of technogenic loads on soils, the background content, the maximum permissible concentration or the roughly permissible concentration of the determined chemical elements in the soil and their clarke for the Republic of Belarus are used. The content of technogenic toxicants should not exceed the permissible concentrations. Environmental impact assessment is conducted with the aim of comprehensive consideration of potential consequences in the sphere of environmental protection and rational use on natural resources and interrelated social and economic consequences, namely health, people's safety, flora and fauna, climate, landscape, objects of cultural and historical heritage; findings of reasonable solutions that help avoid or minimize possible impacts when implementing the projects; defining whether it is possible or not to fulfill the planned activity at the specific site under development; taking efficient measures to minimize harmful impact on the environmental and human being.