NOTIFICATION TO AN AFFECTED PARTY OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY UNDER ARTICLE 3 OF THE CONVENTION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY | |
| (i) Information on the nature of the proposed activity | |
| Type of proposed activity/document | Strategy for the Management of Mineral and Other Geological Resources of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2025 to 2040, with projections to 2050 (hereinafter: the Strategy) |
| Is the activity listed in Appendix I to the Convention? | Some activities are listed |
| Scope of the proposed activity/document | The development of the Strategy is defined by Articles 11–13 of the Law on Mining and Geological Research (“Official Gazette of RS”, Nos. 101/15, 95/18 – other law, and 40/21). |
| Scale of the proposed activity/document | The Strategy aims to contribute in the long term to a stable and sustainable supply of the Republic of Serbia with mineral and other geological resources (especially strategic and critical mineral resources), providing a dynamic development plan for the mining sector over the next 15 years, with projections to 2050. It includes visions, principles, and strategic guidelines intended to promote more efficient and prosperous operations for faster development of the mining sector while respecting all environmental protection standards. |
| Description of the proposed activity/document | The Strategy reviews and defines goals to be achieved, as well as measures necessary to achieve long-term strategic objectives in the field of geological research, exploitation, and valorization of mineral and other geological resources. The vision proposed by this Strategy is that by 2040 and looking ahead to 2050, the Republic of Serbia will be an institutionally and economically developed country committed to the sustainable use of mineral resources. The mineral-raw materials complex of the Republic of Serbia will be one of the foundations of the national economy, compatible with EU standards, with a knowledge-based mineral sector, efficient use of resources, minimized environmental impacts, and a focus on ensuring that the final product remains predominantly within Serbia. |
| Purpose of the proposed activity/document | The proposed priorities of the Strategy are primarily defined through securing the present and future needs of the country for mineral and other geological resources and their sustainable use. This includes expansion of the mineral raw materials base, with a special emphasis on resources of strategic importance to the Republic of Serbia. |
| Justification for the proposed activity/document | Ensuring the present and future needs of the country for mineral and other geological resources through the use of modern technologies, good practices, and compliance with domestic and EU standards, especially in the area of research and exploitation, is key to further economic development. In this sense, it is necessary to:   * Integrated and sustainable management of mineral and other resources with continuous innovation in processes and improved state and corporate control in geological research and mining processes, including health and safety; * Ensure access to mineral raw materials and other geological resources; * Intensify exploration and geological documentation of resources and mineral deposits and other geological resources; * Create a favorable legal environment for development, modernization, and investment in geological exploration and sustainable mining with a service-oriented approach; * Ensure strategic spatial protection of mineral deposits and other geological resources through spatial planning from the national to the local level; * Ensure access to and exploitation of anthropogenic raw materials and support the development of a circular economy; * Expand knowledge and continuously strengthen key competencies and staff capabilities, along with broad public education. |
| Additional information/comments |  |
|  | |
| Location/spatial scope | Territory of the Republic of Serbia |
| Description of location/spatial scope |  |
| Justification for the proposed location/spatial scope |  |
| Time horizon of the proposed activities | Until 2040, with projections to 2050 |
| Maps and other pictorial documents connected with the information on the proposed activity |  |
| Additional information/comments |  |
| **(iii) Информације о очекиваним утицајима на животну средину и предложеним мерама за ублажавање** | |
| Scope of impact |  |
| Expected environmental impact | The expected impacts of the proposed activity on the environment (e.g., types, locations, scale) suggest that the Strategy for the Management of Mineral and Other Geological Resources defines measures and policies that contribute to minimizing the impact of the mining sector on the environment and to the sustainable use of mineral and other geological resources. |
| Input data | / |
| Output data | / |
| Transboundary impacts | The Republic of Serbia is a party to the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the SEA Protocol to the Espoo Convention, thereby committing to notify other countries regarding the preparation of plans, programs, and projects that may have transboundary impacts. According to the SEA Protocol, if it is determined that the implementation of plans and programs could cause significant negative transboundary impacts, the "Party of origin" must undertake actions to ensure timely and effective intervention by notifying any potentially affected party (country) that may be impacted by the planned activities. This notification must occur as early as possible and no later than the time the domestic public is notified of the activity. In this context, it is concluded that the proposed activities and measures in the Strategy may have negative environmental impacts on other countries, especially considering that there are plans and projects located in border zones with neighboring countries, or whose operation may cause transboundary effects, which require consultations in accordance with the Espoo Convention and the SEA Protocol. |
| Recommended mitigation measures | Most of the measures and means presented in the Strategy relate to actions that will contribute to reducing emissions of pollutants into the air, preserving the hydrological regime of underground and surface waters, and protecting forest and agricultural land, among others. Compliance with national and EU environmental protection standards will contribute to the sustainable use of mineral and other geological resources.  Special attention is given to environmental protection and measures that will minimize environmental impacts, particularly through:   * Protection of key environmental elements (air, water, soil); * Sustainable use of natural values; * Conservation of biodiversity, geodiversity, and landscape enhancement; * Rational use of mineral and other geological resources; * Improvement of waste management |
| Additional information/comments | / |
| (iv) Processor | |
| Name, address, telephone, fax | Ministry of Mining and Energy Nemanjina 22-26, 11000 Belgrade Republic of Serbia Phone: +381 11 33 46 755 Fax: +381 11 3625 055 Email: kabinet@mre.gov.rs |
| (v) Strategic Environmental Assessment Report | |
| Is the Report part of this notification? | Yes |
| If not, description of documents to be delivered or available | / |
| Additional information/comments | / |
| 2. CONTACTS | |
| (i) Contacts of affected parties | |
| Authority responsible for coordinating activities | To be delivered via diplomatic mail |
| List of affected parties to which notification was sent | Republic of Hungary, Republic of Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, and Montenegro |
| (ii) Contacts of the party of origin | |
| Authority responsible for coordinating activities | Ministry of Environmental Protection Slobodan Sremčević Omladinskih brigada 1 Phone: +381 11 2690977 Fax: +381 11 3132574 |
| Body responsible for preparation and decision-making | Ms. Dubravka Đedović Handanović, Minister Ministry of Mining and Energy Nemanjina 22-26, 11000 Belgrade Republic of Serbia Phone: +381 11 33 46 755 Fax: +381 11 3625 055 Email: kabinet@mre.gov.rs |
| 3. INFORMATION ON THE PROCEDURE RELATED TO STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA | |
| (i) Information on the procedure to be implemented | |
| Schedule | 2025 |
| Timeframe during which affected parties may participate in the process | Draft Strategy for the Management of Mineral and Other Geological Resources of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2025–2040, with projections to 2050 and the SEA Report, consultation period 30 days from the day of the receipt of the notification. |
| Timeframe during which affected parties may submit comments on the delivered documentation (Notification and SEA Report) | Draft Strategy for the Management of Mineral and Other Geological Resources of the Republic of Serbia for 2025–2040 with projections until 2050 and the SEA Report – consultation period 30 days from the day of the receipt of the notification. |
|  |  |
| Adoption procedure | August–September 2025 – Adoption by the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Serbia |
| Additional information/comments | / |
| 4. INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN | |
| Public participation | The public consultation on the draft Energy Sector Development Strategy and the draft Report on STR will include the publication of the text on the website ([www.mre.gov.rs](http://www.mre.gov.rs)) of the Ministry of Mining and Energy and the eConsultation Portal. The public consultation will also include public discussions. All information and documentation can be found at the link <https://www.mre.gov.rs> and on the eConsultation Portal. |
| Start and duration of public inspection | The public discussion on the draft Strategy for the Management of Mineral and Other Geological Resources of the Republic of Serbia with the Report on SPU will be held from 30 May – 18 June 2025. During the public discussion presentation and discussion will take place during the period planned for the public discussion, specifficaly on 16 June 2025 in Belgrade , in accordance with the program available at the aforementioned link. |
| Additional information/comments | / |
| 5. DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE | |
| Deadline | According to the date of receipt of the notification, within 30 days. |