

Existing plans for transformation of the selected post-coal mining areas in Albania, local aspirations and existing opportunities

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Presentation of Valiasi Coal Mine

- The general surface of the mining field is 14 km², while the surface on which the mine has developed its activity until the moment of closure is 4.2 km² or 420 ha. The village of Valias is located above the source of Valias. The region is described by a dense network of regional and national highways.
- The opening of the Valias coal mine was carried out through vertical mining works (wells), specifically:
 - Main well
 - Auxiliary Well No.1
 - Auxiliary well No. 2
 - Airwell A1
 - Airwell A2 (First North Panel).
 - Air well A3 (Laknas- Second South Panel)

Valiasi Coal Mine Close Process (1)

- From 1973 to June 1978 by Mining Construction Company, a total of 10,582 ml of works were opened, of which: 6924 ml of horizontal works, 1873 ml of inclined works, 1785 ml of vertical works.
- After the deepening of the wells up to the first level -113.00 m, in 1974 the opening of horizontal works began.
- Coal production began in 1978 and continued until 1994, 3,642,178 tons were produced with a quality of 2,190 kcal/kg and a 47% impoverishment coefficient.
- The Council of Ministers by decision No. 139, dated 20.03.1995, decided the liquidation (closure) of this mine and tasked the former ITNPM (Institute of Mineral Extraction and Processing Technology) to draw up the Technical Project for the Closure of the Valias Mine for the implementation of this decision.
- The study envisages: Drowning of horizontal and steep works with water and filling of all columns of vertical wells with material (fractionated limestone gravel), building (or not) ambushes at their bottoms. This study was not implemented.

Valiasi Coal Mine Close Process (2)

- The closing of the Valias mine was done according to project No. 2916 drawn up by the former ITNPM (Institute of Mineral Extraction and Processing Technology) in 2004, with a budget of about 10,000,000 leke. (around 84000 USD)
- The variant of closing the mine was applied by plugging the mouths of the wells on the surface with metal pipes and concrete and surrounding them in the perimeter, calculated according to the technical requirements with walls and metal profiles were placed on them at a certain distance, connected with wire networks. The second closure of Valias with preventive project No. 2916 was carried out in 2004 and had a value of about 10,000,000 leke. (around 84000 USD)

About local aspirations and existing opportunities

- In the central area of Valias, part of the closed mine, as a result of the growing demand of the Kamez and Tirana Municipality, in 2020 the construction for residential/housing purposes began. So far 6 (six) civil buildings have been built and 8 (eight) others are under construction.
- Considering the migration of the population and the growing demand for construction area, the local government in cooperation with the relevant institutions are considering the possibility of continuing/expanding the area for civil constructions over the mining field.
- Currently, the filling of auxiliary well no. 2 is being carried out, with fractionated limestone gravel material according to the standards process set for closure of a vertical mining operation.

Photos of rehabilitation wells



Photos of residential buildings



Photos of buildings under construction



Thank you for your attention