



Environmental impact of coal-mining wastes in Poland with regard to legal regulations

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Abstract

Coal mining wastes represent the largest amount of industrial waste in Poland. Polish coal mining industry produces ca. 30 millions Mg of mining wastes per year. This results in deposits of a huge volume of wastes on dumping grounds. The negative influence of post-mining dumping grounds on the natural environment as well as risks posed to the inhabitants requires taking effective preventative measures. These negative environmental impacts of waste dumps comprise water pollution (e.g. AMD processes), fire hazards (self ignition) and mass movements on the dumping grounds slopes. It is equally significant to carry out effective reclamation and economically justified development of the dumping grounds. The ways of preventing environmental hazards strictly connected with the application of findings of interdisciplinary research must be reflected in appropriate and efficient legal regulations.

In the paper there are analyzed legal documents regarding coal mining wastes in Poland including the regulations of environmental protection, geological and mining law, statutes regulating the management of wastes as well as environmental impact assessments. The analysis has taken into consideration directives, statuses, executive deeds, local law acts and elaboration of standards.

The valid legal regulations in Poland regulate the issues connected with coal mining dumping grounds in a very general way. It is necessary to prepare supplements to the legal provisions or new regulations concerning post-mining dumping grounds. It seems to be beneficial to create new regulations in the form of local law deeds.

One of the most recent problems in Poland is also recovery of coal from mining wastes. There is a possibility and necessity of recovering of coal from post-mining waste dumps, what should be linked with appropriate legal regulations.

Key words: coal-mining waste, Polish coal mining industry.

Povzetek

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Ključne besede: odpadki pridobivanja premoga, poljska premoška industrija.