

This area of the Slovenian legislation is not regulated in one law, but in several. Among them these are the most important:

- Environmental Protection Act - EPA (*Zakon o varstvu okolja*)
- Water Act- WA (*Zakon o vodah*)
- Mining Act-MA (*Zakon o rudarstvu*)
- Construction Act-CA (*Zakon o graditvi objektov*)

Slovenian law does not know the term mine water. We can place them in the context of underground waters covered by the Water Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT is an umbrella law that governs the protection of the environment from the impact. The act follows the principle of sustainable development that seeks to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including reducing energy use and greater use of renewable energy. Following this principle EPA allows intervention in the environment only if it does not cause excessive loads and to the acquisition of the environmental consent or the license. Pumping water for heating buildings is one of the forms of pollution so it is necessary to determine the effect of this intervention on the environment.

EPA also requires that for the special use of natural resources it is necessary to obtain the right in accordance with the provisions governing its use (water use is regulated by the waters, so this law also regulates the acquisition of water rights).

Environmental impact assessment:

Before starting the implementation of the intervention which may have significant effects on the environment it is necessary to carry out assessments of its impact on the environment and obtain environmental approval from the ministry. For the issue of environmental protection consent performer of intervention must apply application to the ministry which includes design and documentation.

Environmental impact assessment is carried out on the basis of a report on the environmental effects drawn up by a technically qualified person. The report relates primarily to a description of the situation before the intervention, a description of the planned activity, how it impacts on the environment, measures to prevent or reduce adverse impacts on the environment...

If the planned activity is in flagrant contradiction with the rules and it should not be taken the environmental agreement is rejected.

WATER ACT:

It is a sectoral law regulating the management of the sea, inland waters and underground waters. The Act defines GROUNDWATER:

- as the water below the surface soil in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil
- for groundwater is not considered thermal water which is used to obtain heat and after the withdrawal of its heat it is returned back into the aquifer

Thermal water is defined as ground water from a borehole, spring or coverage that meets the prescribed criteria.

Natural waters are among the public good which means that they can be used in accordance with the law by everyone – COMMON USE. Any use of water good that exceeds the common use is SPECIAL USE and it is only possible on the basis of a water permit or concession. Ground water does not naturally belong to the public good because it is not possible to provide universal access. For its use it is necessary to obtain water right. WA determines that using the groundwater means special use.

Water right of special water use can be obtained on the basis of a water permit or concession and it has to be paid. The water right can be equated with property rights. It can be implemented only by the holder in a way, for the purpose and the extent to which it was obtained in order to ensure efficient and effective use of water by using the best available techniques.

Water Act provides that it is necessary for the use of thermal, mineral or thermo-mineral water to obtain water rights to the concession.

Concession: is granted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia but only for a limited time. The process of obtaining a concession consists of four phases:

1. Concessionary Adoption Act (Government Decree RS)
2. Holding a public tender
3. Selection of the concessionaire through an administrative decision
4. Concession contract

The procedure is also possible to start with the initiative for an act of concession by the natural or legal person. The initiative must include all elements necessary to determine the content of the concession act (including area, the nature, extent and duration of use).

The concession is granted by decision of the selection on the basis of public tender. After selection of the concessionaire the concession grantor concludes a concession contract, which specifies their relationship.

For water right - the right to special use of water - the two types of benefits are paid, which means that water right is paid twice:

1. Payment for water rights: granting a water permit or concession shall be made against payment
2. Water recovery: payment for water consumed

Rules on the merits of an application for a water permit and the merits of an application for a permit to study groundwater specifies the contents of an application for a water permit for direct use of water as well as for groundwater research. In this case it is particularly important for content sharing hydrological reports regardless of the proposed withdrawal of water: up to 2l / s shall be made a minimum hydro geological report.

MINING ACT:

Governing the exploration, exploitation and management of mineral resources, natural resources, regardless of whether they are in the ground or on the surface of the running or standing waters or in coastal waters. It also regulates the granting of mining rights, powers and mode of licensing.

Mining Act also regulates the exploitation of geothermal energy source which is defined as thermal energy which is located in the geological strata beneath the surface of the soil and restores the flow of heat from Earth's interior. The exploitation of geothermal energy resources is done in two ways.

1. By geocollector or geosond: the thermal energy is taken from the geological layers with the help of the loop through the associated piping system, mounted horizontally in a hole or

deposited in a certain depth below the surface soil as a carrier for the withdrawal of thermal energy using the appropriate liquid sealed in this pipe system.

2. By reinjection: thermal energy from geological layer is taken through two wells connected on the surface and in the geological structures located less than 25m away. As a carrier for the withdrawal of thermal energy natural underground water is used so that it is drawn from one borehole in geological structure or aquifer to the extraction of heat. After the withdrawal of heat this water is sent back through another hole to the geological structure or aquifer.

The exploitation of geothermal energy sources by geocollector can be implemented without a concession. For the exploitation by reinjection the license for exploration and exploitation of water rights are acquired only in accordance with the regulations governing the water.

Rules on the merits of an application for a water permit and the merits of an application for a permit for groundwater survey states that the application for admission to the study of underground water should be accompanied by:

- For wells deeper than 30m: borehole mining project under the regulations on mining or project documentation for the bore under the rules of the Construction
- For wells deeper than 200m: borehole mining project revised the regulations on mining, or a revised project document in accordance with regulations of the Construction