



## Medieninformation

# Study warns of serious consequences of Turów open-cast mine expansion

Urgent need for action by political decision-makers

Zittau, 12.10.2020 --- A continuation of mining in Turów (PL) open-cast mine in its planned form is expected to have a much greater impact on life in the city of Zittau than has been demonstrated by the operating company to date. This is the conclusion of a scientific study presented today in Zittau.

The expert study from geologist Dr. habil. Ralf E. Krupp, which was ordered by Greenpeace Germany in coordination with Frank Bold Society, comes to the conclusion that the mining activities will pose considerable risks for the city of Zittau and the surrounding villages. In addition to an expected long-term contamination from acid mine water, the main risks defined in the expert study are groundwater lowering, soil subsidence in the Zittau urban area of several centimetres and, in the worst case, a breakthrough of the river Neisse into the open-cast mining area.

Lord Mayor Thomas Zenker checked the plausibility of the study with independent experts and is therefore concerned about the future of Zittau, should even a part of these forecasts come true. *"From Zittau's point of view, neither the German technical authorities nor the Polish operator have discussed such drastic consequences in the licensing procedure so far. I urge the authorities of the Free State of Saxony to re-examine the risks and, if necessary, to take legal action against the project, following the example of the Czech side. The previous approval procedure had already been unsatisfactory and it was questionable whether the legal requirements of a European environmental impact assessment were met. As before, we do not have the right to deprive our neighbours of important sources of income overnight. But the protection of our town and region and its population must of course be fully respected,"* said Zenker to his motivation.

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