MINING WORKS IN THE TRANSFAGARASAN - ARGES AREA

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Abstract: In the area of Transfagarasan Transalpine Road, DN 7C, two mining areas can be identified, namely upstream of Paraul Capra Chalet and downstream of the same cottage, near the Piscul Negru Chalet. The paper presents a case study for mining at high altitude in a touristic area.

Keywords: mining, tourism, Arges, Romania

The upstream works are easily visible when descending to Paraul Capra Chalet immediately after the Capra or Iezer cascade. Chalet Paraul Capra is 9 km from Lake Balea downstream to Jud. Arges.

The mining works are approximately 500 m upstream on the road or about 100 m upstream on the slope. At the base of the slope one can still identify the ruins of a building. There are three coastal galleries on the upstream slope, and the heap is common. From this heap rocks were taken to repair the road but also for a coastal road that is directed upstream for a few hundred meters long, a road built to be used in the continuation of the prospecting works but it is now useful just for tourism. On the heap can be identified both dolomite limestone rocks and crystalline rocks.
Following gamma-global radiometric surveys, values of 20-30 cps may be identified, for light rocks and 70-80 cps for crystalline ones. In the area of the former mine buildings, some concrete foundations remained, a car park was organized, where several tourist camps were used, useful for tourists who did not have tents or vehicles. The water draining from the galleries and washing the heap as well as the waters of the brook in the area are also used by occasional tourists.

Cabana Piscu Negru

Piscul Negru Chalet is a growing tourist destination. Initially, there was a small tourist settlement in the confluence area of the Capra River with Izvorul Sec, near the DN 7C road. Transfagarasasan Peak Piscul Negru is at an altitude of 2248 m.

The mining works at Piscu Negru

The first geologists who appeared in the area in 1964 were Soviet geologists. Then worked the Romanian geologists and in 1980 the first meters of a prospecting galley were dug. The entrance of the gallery is 1195 m. At a distance of 310 m from the entrance to the gallery a cave on the left upstream is opened. It's cave No.3. Moving forward to the interior of the mountain, the prospecting gallery had a deviation to Pestera no. 5. Miners went further and intersected tangentially cave no. 2. On the right upstream of Pestera nr.5, the prospecting gallery intersects Cave no. 4 in two areas. From the bifurcation to Pestera nr.5 upstream and then to the right reached Pestera nr. 1. The caves were eventually mapped by the speleologists at the Emil Racovita Institute. If you go up the valley upstream of the cave complex, you will identify three altitude panels of 1220m, 1320m and 1510m.
Speologists measured the distance from the entrance to the mine gallery to the bifurcations of the caves and found the distances of the caves to the entrance of the mine: Cave 1 is 310 m, Cave 2 at 340 m, Cave 3 at 165 m, Cave 4 is situated after Cave 5 to the right upstream and Cave 5 is located after Cave 3 to the left upstream.

Schematic of the connection of the mining works with the caves of Piscu Negru

The problem is that tourists and speleologists visit the mountain underground without worry. The radiometric inspection identifies values of 70 - 90 cps at the entrance, the level rising inwards. Besides the radioactive rock there is also gas - Radon and Thoron, but also the drainage water that is being used.

The Prospecting Gallery and its connection with the Piscu Black Caves
Under the Podeanu Peak there was a small track gauge used for the transport of the wood and was to be connected to the ore transport.

The mining heap at Piscu Negru

A particular danger is the presence of the mining heap where abnormal radioactivity values are identified, especially towards the tail of the heap.

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