



ECOLOGICAL AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OF USE AND PROTECTION OF UNDERGROUND RESOURCES IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 28 th November 2023 Accepted: 26 th December 2023 Published: 30 th January 2024	In this article, the study of ecological and legal information on the natural resources of Uzbekistan is given in the law on the use of underground resources and nature protection.
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Environmental and legal requirements for the use of underground resources and their protection are rooted in imperative form in Articles 50, 54 and 55 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. According to them, every citizen or owner must be careful with the natural environment (including underground resources) and use them wisely. These conditions are given in an expanded form in the Law on Nature Protection, according to which (Article 17) legal entities and individuals can use underground resources based on the following environmental requirements:

- providing complex and rational use of mineral raw materials in the extraction of mineral resources;
- pollution of the natural environment and underground resources is prevented;
- recultivation of used land plots (restoration or recultivation of degraded lands);
- from renewable minerals to natural regeneration.

Generalized environmental legal requirements are specialized and found their core in the new version¹ of December 13, 2002 "Underground Resources" and August 30, 1995 "Concessions" laws, and they consist of the following:

- carrying out work in the mining industry (exploration, digging and recultivation) in accordance with the project of using the subsoil and carrying out environmental expertise;
- full exploration of the subsoil, rational and complex use of underground resources and their protection;
- selective use of mineral-rich areas of mines, mineral raw material extraction and its processing, to prevent excessive loss of minerals;
- protection of the natural environment from the harmful effects of activities related to the use of underground resources;
- to restore land plots damaged during the use of underground resources to a suitable condition for their subsequent use for other purposes;

- collecting water used as drinking water and preventing the accumulation of mining and household waste in the areas where underground water is collected;
- allocation of plots of underground resources of special scientific and cultural value for state reserves and natural or cultural monuments;
- foreign investors must protect the environment while using underground resources and carry out work in an ecologically safe manner, and return the above-ground or underground plots step by step in a safe manner, and take other environmental and legal measures provided for by law. to go

Environmental and legal requirements for the use and protection of underground resources, direct or indirect foreign investments, ownership, water and water use, laws on the protection and use of flora and fauna, the Land Code, the Tax Code and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the procedure for providing mining tailings for the development of mineral deposits", "Procedure for erasing reserves of mined and lost minerals at the expense of users of underground resources" on", reflected in the decisions on "Uniform rules for the protection of underground resources during the development of minerals".

According to the essence and tasks of the ecological and legal requirements for the use of underground resources identified in the current regulatory documents, they can be divided into 4 groups:

- 1) protection through their use or conservation through full and comprehensive study of underground resources;
- 2) to carry out the search, extraction and recultivation of mineral raw materials only under the supervision of specialized state bodies and not to harm other objects of the natural environment during their implementation;
- 3) timely recultivation of used mines or land plots during their exploitation;
- 4) establishment of special protection procedures for rare types of mineral resources and their complexes.



Projects prepared for the use of underground resources must be examined by the State Committee for Nature Protection.

In settlements, green zones around the city, industrial, transport, communication facilities, underground mineral water extraction zones, and within the framework of specially protected natural areas, the use of some sections of the subsoil may be restricted or prohibited.

Users of underground resources have a number of rights and obligations according to Articles 32-33 of the Law "On Underground Resources".

Restriction, suspension and termination of the right to use underground resources shall be carried out in the cases specified in Article 34 of the Law "On Underground Resources" and in the manner determined by the Cabinet of Ministers.

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