



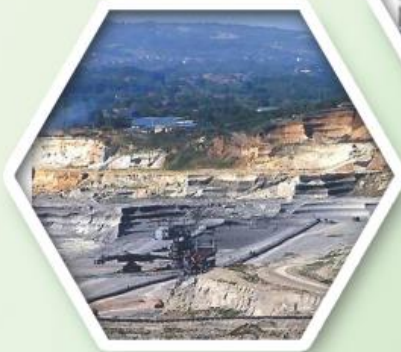
5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium

**MINING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

10 - 13 June 2015., Vrdnik, Serbia

# **MINING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

## **PROCEEDINGS**



Vrdnik  
10 - 13. June 2015.

## **PROCEEDINGS**

5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium **MINING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium

## MINING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

10 - 13. June 2015., Vrdnik, Serbia

### VERIFICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE DISPERSION MODEL IN MINING

**Marija Hadzi-Nikolova, Dejan Mirakovski, Zoran Despodov,  
Nikolinka Doneva, Stojance Mijalkovski**

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**Abstract:** *Environmental Noise Dispersion Model (ENDM) simulates outdoor sound propagation and predicts noise levels from known noise sources for close and distant locations. The Model calculates attenuation due to noise source enclosures and other noise control measures, for distance from the source to the receiver, for the noise source size, type and directivity, for barriers and natural topographical features and for sound absorption in the air.*

*In practice the physical environment will usually not be fixed, but will be characterized by constantly varying conditions. These variations in real world conditions will subsequently cause the actual sound field to vary in time and space. Thus it is important to recognize that the output of an Environmental Noise Model (ENM) will only represent an estimate of the range of actual environmental noise levels that could occur in time and space. Therefore verification of ENDM is essential step in increased model confidentiality. By comparing results calculated and measured on site during the model development and model adjustment, compliance between measurement and calculation results could be obtained. This paper presents steps of ENDM verification in mining sites.*

**Keywords:** *Noise, Model, Verification, Environment*

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Noise pollution affects quality of life and has been linked to health problems [1]. The EU Environmental Noise Directive (END) aims to manage noise and preserve quiet areas by engaging the public, local authorities and operators.

The European Community Green Paper on Future Noise Policy (1996) recognised that environmental noise is “one of the main local environmental problems in Europe” but that it has had a lower priority than other environmental problems, such as air or water pollution [2]. It also recognised that, despite significant reductions in the noise produced by individual sources, total exposure to environmental noise has not changed significantly. For example, the introduction of quieter vehicles has been offset by an increase in traffic.

Environmental noise in Republic of Macedonia is controlled by Law on Environmental Noise Protection and related regulations that gives guidelines and standards covering planning, transport, the environment and compensation. To provide a common approach to noise management, the European Union introduced the Environmental Noise Directive (END) in 2002. This was transposed into Environmental Noise Regulations in Republic of Macedonia.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF NOISE MAPPING

Noise mapping is the first tool to effectively assess noise exposure, communicating information to citizens, and defining effective action plans for protecting citizens from high noise levels and preserving quiet urban areas [3]. Environmental Noise Dispersion Models and Noise Mapping Procedures shows how to integrate data with geographical information systems, improve accuracy in model and prediction software, and assess different methods and descriptors for evaluating annoyance and noise exposure. ENDM is prepared based on regulations, communication processes, physical aspects, and application of noise mapping. Beginning with fundamental concepts in acoustics and a presentation of legal frameworks for noise mapping, many software packages cover all the main issues about noise mapping. It presents numerical models for roads, railways, airports, harbours, and industrial sites [4].

Noise mapping is a form of environmental modelling and like most risk based environmental models is used on the source-pathway-receiver conceptual model, whereby the source emission is first calculated, and then propagated across a geographical extent to the receiver (at a specified location).

Noise dispersion modeling can be used for calculating the areas, that are affected by noise and for determining the number of sensitive buildings, that are affected by high noise levels. Using noise model the number of citizens who are annoyed can be determined. Noise dispersion models can be helpful in planning and decision making process to reduce the noise pollution.

### 2.1 Quality and accuracy of data for noise mapping

The accuracy and quality of noise mapping depend on the scale and details of the input data. Nevertheless redundant data should be avoided reducing the computation time. During noise mapping, if the density of information is high then accurate results can be achieved, specially in the case where the noise levels changes quickly. The observation point (which represents the virtual microphone) should be in high density close to the source and objects, low density parallel to the track and further away.

The densely spacing of observation points is not only scale factor that has to be consider. The scale and the details of the information of area and buildings sensitive to noise are also very important (Stoter, 1999). The quality of the results of noise mapping depends on the quality of input data used. The GIS can control and supervise the quality of the results by considering the quality of input data into account [5].

Noise mapping approach for noise management is effective when there is more reliable, meaningful, transparent and unambiguous information in the noise maps. In order to have an accurate noise maps, the process of noise mapping should be clear and with a proper sequence. The following step illustrates the process of 2D noise mapping:

#### ***Step 1: Collection of raw data, preparing, storing and querying of these data.***

The GIS provides the central database management environment. The noise data can be imported into GIS where the quality can be checked and stored [6]. The data needed to compute noise levels should be in accordance with the site conditions. The raw data should include the road information, building details, population of area, parks, and other sensitive areas (school, hospitals). The data can be distinguished in two sets; first, the data needed for computing noise in noise calculation model and the second is the geographical data such as location of people, buildings, roads (Kluijver de Henk *et al.*, 2003). Scale and level of detail of the data should be sufficient to reach the proposed accuracy of study.

#### ***Step 2: Calculation of noise levels***

Computation of noise levels is carried out for the observation points located on map. Computation is carried with standard noise calculation models. The quality of input data required for computation is to be checked for accurate results. The calculation models are integrated with GIS and the result (observation points with noise values) s converted into GIS data.

### Step 3: Determining noise contours

Noise contours are computed by interpolation of calculated noise levels of observation points using Noise Modeling Software. Since significant decisions are based on these noise contours, which makes it important that these decisions are unbiased (Kluyver de Henk *et al.*, 2003). The accuracy of contour maps of noise situation can be obtained if the density of observation points is significantly high.

Figure 1 shows general review of developing noise dispersion model and content of noise maps [7].

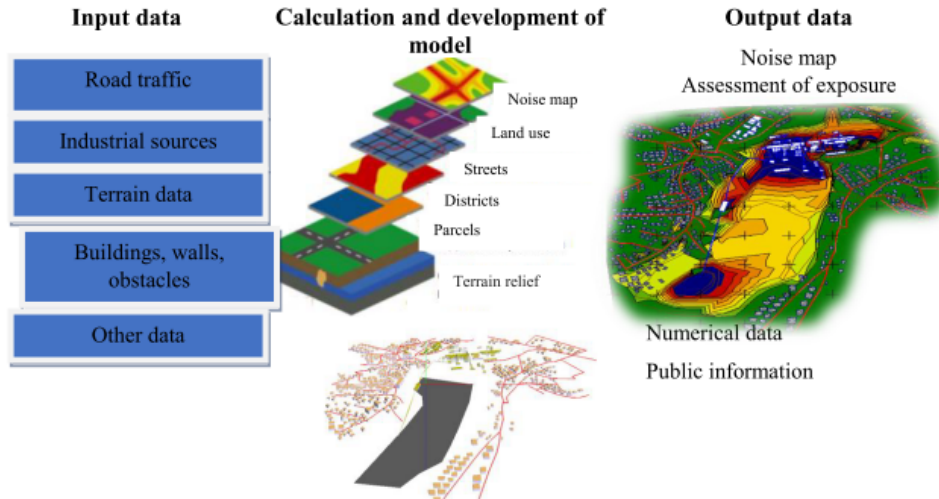


Figure 1 Review of developing Noise Dispersion Model [7]

## 2.2. Input Data Requirements for Assessment of Industrial Noise

The type of information required for each industrial site is determined by the choice of approach being undertaken, and the resolution of the modelling to be carried out. At the most simplistic approach, using area sources to describe operational elements of the industrial site, the following information is typically required [8]:

- Location of industrial area;
- Description of industrial process;
- Sound power emission level(s) for operations on the site; and
- Mean frequency band for assessment of global noise exposure.

If a more detailed assessment is undertaken, more additional information may be required, such as:

- Location, size and height of noise source on site;
- Sound power level(s) for each noise source on site, possibly in octave bands;
- Noise source directivity; and
- Operational periods of each noise source.

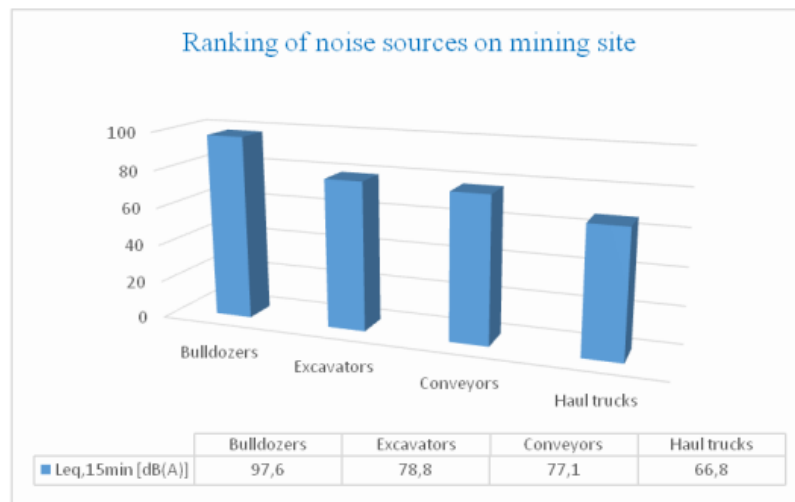
### 2.2.1. Mining noise sources

The sound pressure level generated depends on the type of the noise source, distance from the source to the receiver and the nature of the working environment. For a given machine, the sound pressure levels depend on the part of the total mechanical or electrical energy that is transformed into acoustical energy.

Sound fields in the workplace are usually complex, due to the participation of many sources: propagation through air (air-borne noise), propagation through solids (structure-borne noise), diffraction at the machinery boundaries, reflection from the floor, wall, ceiling and machinery surface, absorption on the surfaces, etc. Therefore any noise control measure should be carried out after a source ranking study, using identification and quantification techniques.

The mechanism of noise generation on mining site depend on the particularly noisy operations and equipment including drilling, blasting (quarries and mines), crushing, Hand-held pneumatic drills pneumatic equipment (e.g. hammers, etc.), milling machines and grinders, as well as , pumps and compressors, drive units, hand-guided machines, self-propelled working machines, in-plant conveying systems and transport vehicles [9].

With 15 -minute measuring of noise levels in 1/3 octave band nearby heavy mining machinery in mining site, bulldozers, excavators and haul trucks were identified as main noise sources (Figure 2).

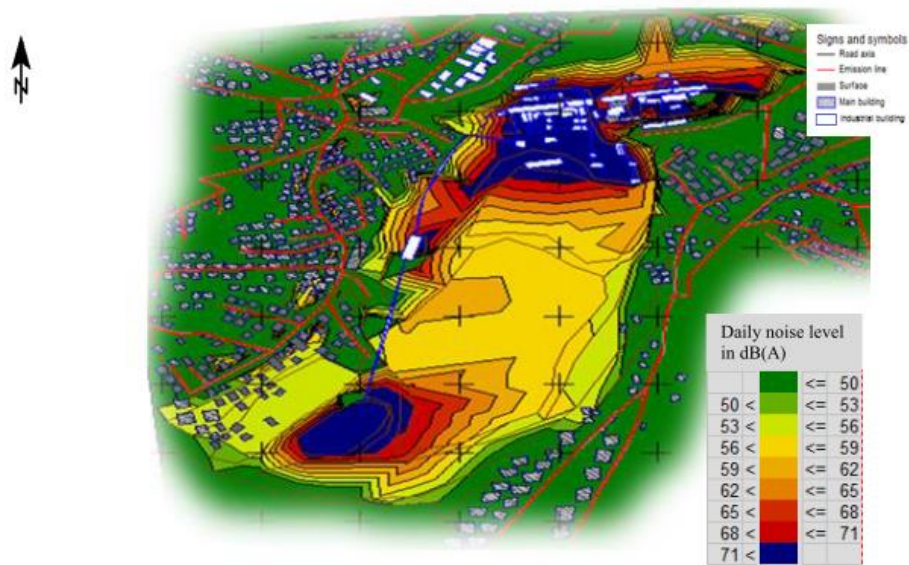


*Figure 2 Main noise sources on mining site*

### 3. DEVELOPMENT OF NOISE DISPERSION MODEL

Based on measurements of noise level and identification of noise sources in the mining site a Noise Dispersion Model in the vicinity (at recipients) of mining site were performed using most sophisticated Software for Noise and Air Pollution Modeling, SoundPLAN 7.2. production by company Braunstein + Berndt GmbH / SoundPLAN International LLC.

SoundPLAN Software by SoundPLAN International LLC and Braunstein + Berndt GmbH is a software package offering a flexible range of noise and air pollution evaluation modules. It is used by more than 5,000 users, including governments, consultants and researchers in more than 40 countries and is the world's leading environmental prediction software. The speed and accuracy of SoundPLAN has been developed to the point where evaluation of noise and pollution impacts on whole cities can be carried out using computer power available to even the most modest of users. The output can range from noise prediction tables to colour contour maps and 3D animations. SoundPLAN has been a leader in its field for more than 25 years [10].



**Figure 3** 2D Noise Dispersion Model in vicinity of industrial processing plant on mining site, close to recipients, during the day

#### 4. VERIFICATION OF THE NOISE DISPERSION MODEL

Verification of noise dispersion model is made on the basis of noise level measurements conducted in the residential areas in the vicinity of the mining site on 5 measurement points close to mining site. Table 1 shows that the measured noise level close to noise sources and the nearest recipients in vicinity of the mining site fully confirm the Noise Dispersion Model in immediate and wider surrounding of the mining site developed using the Software for Noise and Air pollution Modeling, SoundPLAN 7.2, based on the measurements of the noise level at sources in the mining site. Small deviations that occur at individual measurement points resulting of additional noise that comes from parking space and nearby roads, which software takes into account in the Noise Dispersion Model.

A comparison of the measured and calculated values at the points for the verification of the model provided the deviation of the calculated and measured values in the range of  $\pm 4$ dB (A).

**Table 1** Comparison of measured equivalent noise level and calculated noise level according to model for 5 measurement points close to noise sources on the mining site

Measurement point	Measured $L_{eq,15min}$ [dB(A)]	$L_{eq}$ [dB(A)] according to model
1	71,6	75-78
2	73,3	72-75
3	61,9	66-69
4	63,6	66-69
5	62,8	63-66

## 5. CONCLUSION

Noise Dispersion Model and noise maps are used to assessment and monitoring of noise adverse impact effects and can be useful in planning and decision-making on noise reduction measures. SoundPLAN Software is a leader in the field of noise mapping. SoundPLAN as software for noise modeling and mapping is quite flexible in the management and control of multiple scenarios and models of noise and offers fast and reliable transformation of these models into noise maps. SoundPLAN uses advanced algorithms to filter the data so that the model can be reduced to the defined tolerance from the user. SoundPLAN software offers many tools for data preparation, consistent control and preparation of reports and documentation. These tools offered very good solutions for all that can be expected from a acoustic simulation program. Noise maps are considered to be sufficiently accurate near major noise sources to allow the areas of highest exposure to be identified for Noise Action Plans.

Environmental Noise Dispersion Model has proven to be a popular and useful acoustic tool to provide accurate prediction for a wide range of environmental noise sources. Improvements are being made to the algorithms as more information becomes available. Improvements are also being made to interfaces with other programs and software packages. Thus the program has become even simple to use without any decrease in the accuracy of the predictions, and noise level contours can be clearly presented.

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