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ЧЕТВРТИ КОНГРЕС

на

Геолозите на Република Северна Македонија

ЗБОРНИК НА ТРУДОВИ

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СОДРЖИНА – TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| ПРЕДГОВОР – PREFACE | 1–2 |
|---------------------------|-----|

ПЛЕРНАРНИ

| | |
|---|---------|
| MGK-2021-0-PL-01- Блажо Боев, ПЕРМАФРОСТ – ГЕОЛОШКИ ПОТЕНЦИЈАЛ И ХАЗАРД Permafrost – Geological potential and hazard..... | 3 – 8 |
| 1. ОСНОВЕН И ФУНДАМЕНТАЛЕН ДЕЛ <i>Геохронологија и изотопна геохемија, Математизам и вулканологија, Минералологија и йегијрологија, Палеонтологија и извештајарство, Структурна геологија и геодинамика, Планетарни науки, геофизика, геохемија</i> | |
| MGK-2021-1-OF-01- Elena Angelova, Vlatko Šešov, Silvana Dimitrijević, Vojka Gardić, CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF FLY ASH SAMPLES FOR FURTHER USE IN SEISMIC GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING Хемиска карактеризација на примероци од летечка пепел за понатамошна употреба во сеизмичкото геотехничко инженерство11–17 | |
| MGK-2021-1-OF-02- Blažo Boev, Ivan Boev NEW INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGE OF THE PELAGONIAN METAMORPHIC COMPLEX (??) Нови информации за староста на Пелагонискиот метаморфен комплекс (??)..... | 19 – 24 |
| MGK-2021-1-OF-03- Ivan Boev PETROGRAPHY OF THE DREN-BOHULA MASSIF AS A PART OF THE OPHIOLITIC COMPLEX DEMIR KAPIJA–GEVGELIJA Петрографија на масивот Дрен–Бохула како дел од офиолитскиот комплекс Демир Капија–Гевгелија25–34 | |
| MGK-2021-1-OF-04- Saše Mitrev, Mitko Popov PETROLOGICAL AND GEOCHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TERTIARY VOLCANIC ROCKS FROM THE LOCALITY GOLEMA ČUKA, BOGDANCI DISTRICT, REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA Петролошки и геохемиски карактеристики на терциерните вулкански карпи од локалитетот Голема Чука, општина Богданци, Република Северна Македонија34–42 | |
| MGK-2021-1-OF-05- Kujtim Onuzi, Agim Ymeri CORRELATION OF THE GEOLOGICAL MAPS 1:50 000 SCALE OF THE ALBANIAN – NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES BORDER AREA | |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Корелација на геолошките карти со размер 1:50 000 на албанската гранична области со соседните земји..... | 43–49 |
| MGK-2021-1-OF-06- Kujtim Onuzi, Friedrich Koller SOUTH-EASTERN ALBANIAN OPHIOLITES Југоисточни албански офиолити..... | 51–55 |
| MGK-2021-1-OF-07- Irakli Prifti, Gjergji Stoja, Agim Ymeri OPINIONS ON GEOLOGICAL SETTING OF ALBANIAN–THESSALIAN BASIN IN KORÇA–POGRADECI REGION Мислења за геолошката градба на Албанско-Тесалискиот басен во Корча-Подградец регионот..... | 57–64 |
| MGK-2021-1-OF-08- Катерина Дрогрешка, Јасмина Најдовска, Драгана Черних, Моника Андрееска, Љубчо Јованов СЕИЗМИЧНОСТ НА МАКЕДОНИЈА ВО ПЕРИОДОТ 2010-2020 ГОДИНА Seismicity in the Republic of North Macedonia during the period 2010–2020 | 65–71 |
| MGK-2021-1-OF-09- Barbara Radulović, Draženko Nenadić, Katarina Bogićević, Slobodan Knežević PALEO-ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MOLLUSCS OF THE PLEISTOCENE CORBICULA BEDS IN THE SAVA RIPARIAN AREA IN BELGRADE (SERBIA) Палеоеколошки карактеристики на мекотели од плеистоценските Corbicula наслаги во крајбрежната област на реката Сава во Белград (Србија) | 73–76 |
| MGK-2021-1-OF-10- Виолета Стојанова, Гоше Петров, Виолета Стефанова МИКРО И НАНОФОСИЛНА АСОЦИЈАЦИЈА ОД ПАЛЕОГЕННИТЕ СЕДИМЕНТИ ВО КОЧАНСКАТА КОТЛИНА, РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА Micro and nanophosylic association of paleogenetic sediments in the Kočani valley, Republic of North Macedonia | 77–82 |
| 2. ИНЖЕНЕРСКИ ДЕЛ <i>Инженерска теологија и теотехника, Применета теофизика, Урбана теологија, Хидротеологија и теотермија</i> | |
| MGK-2021-2-ID-01- Орце Петковски, Ванчо Ангелов, Ласте Ивановски, Елена Ангелова, Наташа Неделковска ИНЖЕНЕРСКОГЕОЛОШКИ ИСТРАЖУВАЊА И ИСПИТУВАЊА НА ЛОКАЛИТЕТОТ БАЛТАШНИЦА – САСА, МАКЕДОНСКА КАМЕНИЦА Engineering-geological investigations and tests at locality Baltašnica – Sasa, Makedonska Kamenica..... | 85–94 |
| MGK-2021-2-ID-02- Игор Пешевски, Јован Папик, Бојана Неделковска, Тамара Јовановска, Марија Манева, Сеад Абази ИНЖЕНЕРСКО-ГЕОЛОШКИ И ГЕОТЕХНИЧКИ ИСТРАЖУВАЊА И ИСПИТУВАЊА ВО ФУНКЦИЈА НА РУДАРСТВОТО ВО МАКЕДОНИЈА Engineering-geological and geotechnical investigations in function of mining in Macedonia..... | 95–104 |

| | |
|--|---------|
| MGK-2021-2-ID-03- Булент Сулооџа, Сеад Абази ПОДГРАДУВАЊЕ И ОСИГУРУВАЊЕ НА ПОДЗЕМНИТЕ РУДАРСКИ ПРОСТОРИИ СО ТЕХНИКА НА ПРСКАН БЕТОН Upgrading and securing the underground mining premises with shotcrete technique | 105–109 |
| MGK-2021-2-ID-04- Игор Пешевски, Милорад Јовановски, Зоран Панов, Јован Папик, Сеад Абази, Александра Николовска Атанасовска ТРЕТМАН НА ИНЖЕНЕРСКАТА ГЕОЛОГИЈА И ГЕОТЕХНИКАТА ПРИ ИСТРАЖУВАЊЕ И ЕКСПЛОАТАЦИЈА НА МИНЕРАЛНИ СУРОВИНИ Treatment of engineering geology and geotechnics in investigation and exploitation of mineral resources..... | 111–122 |
| MGK-2021-2-ID-05- Стојан Михаиловски, Златко Илијовски, Ивица Андов, Војо Мирчовски ИЗВЕДБА НА ПИЕЗОМЕТРИ ЗА ДЕФИНИРАЊЕ НА МОЖНИ ПАТИШТА НА ДВИЖЕЊЕ НА ШЕСТОВАЛЕТЕН ХРОМ СО ПОДЗЕМНИТЕ ВОДИ НИЗ ЖЕДЕНСКИОТ МАСИВ КОН ИЗВОРОТ РАШЧЕ Construction of piezometers to define possible routes of movement of hexavalent chromium with groundwater through the zheden massif towards the spring Rashche | 123–134 |
| MGK-2021-2-ID-06- Моме Милановски, Мила Крулановик, Сергеј Полекшиќ ИНЖЕНЕРСКО-ГЕОЛОШКИ ИСТРАЖУВАЊА И ИСПИТУВАЊА НА ПРИСТАНИШТЕТО БАР, ЦРНА ГОРА Engineering geological research and testing to the port of Bar, Montenegro..... | 135–143 |
| MGK-2021-2-ID-06- Војо Мирчовски, Дарко Пижов, Ѓорѓи Димов ПРОЦЕНА НА РАНЛИВОСТА ОД ЗАГАДУВАЊЕ НА ПОДЗЕМНИТЕ ВОДИ ВО ВОДОНОСНИКОТ ГРДОВСКИ ОРМАН СО ПРИМЕНА НА МЕТОДИТЕ "GOD" И "AVI" Assessment of the groundwater vulnerability of pollution in the aquifer Grdovski Orman with the application "GOD" AND "AVI" method | 145–154 |
| 3. ЕКОНОМСКА ГЕОЛОГИЈА <i>Мешалотенија, Минерални ресурси, Енергетиски ресурси, Технологии на останати</i> | |
| MGK-2021-3-EG-01- Todor Serafimovski, Ivica Ristović, Blažo Boev, Goran Tasev, Ivan Boev, Dalibor Serafimovski Matej Dolenc SOME GEOCHEMICAL AND MINERALOGICAL FEATURES OF SAMPLES FROM OLD BOR'S TAILING DAM Некои геохемиски и минералошки карактеристики на примероци од старото борско хидројаловиште | 157–164 |
| MGK-2021-3-EG-02- Виолета Стефанова, Ѓорѓи Димов, Виолета Стојанова МОРФОЛОШКО-ХЕМИСКИ КАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ НА ЗЛАТНИ АГРЕГАТИ ОД ЛИПОВДОЛСКА РЕКА, ИСТОЧНА МАКЕДОНИЈА Morphological-chemical characteristics of golden aggregates from Lipovdolska river, Eastern Macedonia..... | 165–172 |

MGK-2021-3-EG-03- **Goran Tasev, Kiril Filev, Dalibor Serafimovski, Todor Serafimovski**

TECHNO-ECONOMIC PARAMETERS OF THE NORTHEASTERN PART
OF CENTRAL PART ORE BODY, BUČIM COPPER MINE, REPUBLIC OF NORTH
MACEDONIA

Техно-економски параметри на североисточниот дел од централното
рудно тело, рудник за бакар Бучим, Република Северна Македонија.....173–178

MGK-2021-3-EG-04- **Aleksandar Gadzhalov, Irina Marinova**

STYLES OF EPITHERMAL MINERALIZATION IN THE SURNAK DEPOSIT,
KROUMOVGRAD GOLDFIELD, SE BULGARIA. DATA FROM SURFACE
OUTCROPS

Типови на епитетермална минерализација во SURNAK наоѓалиштето,
Крумовград Златоносно поле. Податоци од површински изданоци179–189

MGK-2021-3-EG-05- **Mihail Tarassov, Eugenia Tarassova, Alexey Benderev, Milen Stavrev,
Elena Tacheva, Alexandar Nikolov, Mila Trayanova**

TUNGSTEN IN SOILS, SEDIMENTS AND WATERS IN THE AREA
OF THE GRANTCHARITSA TUNGTEEN DEPOSIT, WESTERN RHODOPES,
BULGARIA

Волфрам во почви, седименти и вода во поширокиот регион на
наоѓалиштето за волфрам Грнчарица, Западни Родопи, Бугарија.....191–195

MGK-2021-3-EG-06- **Hazim Hrvatović, Ladislav Palinkaš, Tola Merza, Petar Katanić,
Enve Kamberović**

LISTWANITES OF DINARIDE AND CENTRAL VARDAR ZONE OPHIOLITES
A Review

Листванитите на офиолитите од Динаридите и Вардарската централна
зона. Преглед197–202

MGK-2021-3-EG-07- **Lazar Gorgjiev, Todor Serafimovski, Marin Aleksandrov, Goran Tasev**

OVERVIEW OF THE NATURAL PARAMETERS FROM THE GEOLOGICAL-
ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF THE ORE DEPOSIT BALTAŠNICA, ORE FIELD SASA

Преглед на натураните параметри од геолошко-економската
оценка на рудното наоѓалиште Балташница, Рудно Поле Саса203–210

4. ПРОГРЕСИВНА ГЕОЛОГИЈА

Примена на ГИС, Геоинформатика, Математичка геокотија, Наногеолоѓија, Медицинска Геологија

MGK-2021-4-PG-01- **Dalibor Serafimovski, Goran Tasev, Todor Chekerovski**

THE ACCESS DATABASE FOR THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE CENTRAL
PART ORE BODY AT THE BUČIM MINE, REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Акцес база на податоци за североисточниот дел од централното рудното
тело во рудникот бучим, Северна Македонија.....213–219

MGK-2021-4-PG-02- **Александар Буов, Анета Ристовска**

РЕЗУЛТАТИ ОД РЕГИОНАЛНИТЕ ПРОСПЕКЦИСКИ ИСТРАЖУВАЊА
НА ДЕЛ ОД ТЕРИТОРИЈАТА НА РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА
Results from the regional prospective research part
of the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia221–230

| | |
|--|---------|
| MGK-2021-4-PG-03- Марија Манева, Игор Пешевски, Љупчо Петрески | |
| ГЕОЛОШКО МОДЕЛИРАЊЕ НА НАОЃАЛИШТЕТО ЗА ЈАГЛЕН БРОД-ГНЕОТИНО СО ПРИМЕНА НА СОВРЕМЕНИ КОМПУТЕРСКИ ТЕХНИКИ | |
| Geological modeling of the coal deposit Brod-Gneotino with application of contemporary computer techniques | 231–240 |
| MGK-2021-4-PG-04- Александар Буов, Анета Ристовска | |
| ОКОНТУРУВАЊЕ НА РУДНО ТЕЛО ВО ПОРФИРСКИ ИСТЕМ, НА ПРИМЕР НА НАОЃАЛИШТЕ ЗА Cu, Au И Ag „БОРОВ ДОЛ“ | |
| Contouring ore body in a porphyry system an example mineral deposits for Cu, Au and Ag „Borov Dol“ | 241–249 |
| 5. ГЕОЛОШКИ ХАЗАРДИ И ЗАШТИТА, | |
| <i>Климатиски промени, Геохазард, Геоекологија и заштита на животината средина</i> | |
| MGK-2021-5-GH-01- Ivan Boev, Sonja Lepitkova | |
| BARIUM IN AIRCONDITIONER FILTERS IN THE CITY OF SKOPJE (REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA) | |
| Бариум во филтрите на климатизерите во градот Скопје (Северна Македонија) | 253–266 |
| MGK-2021-5-GH-02- Toni Nikolić, Samir Huseinbasić, Suad Spago | |
| NATURAL DISASTER IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA OVER 2014. WHAT WE LEARN – PREVENTION, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND INTERVENTION | |
| Natural disaster in Bosnia and Herzegovina over 2014. what we learn – prevention, disaster management and intervention | 267–272 |
| 6. ГЕОЛОКО КУЛТУРНО НСЛЕДСТВОИ, | |
| <i>Културно историски споменици, Геопаркови и туризам, Гаонаследство и национални музеи</i> | |
| MGK-2021-6-GK-01- Ivan Boev | |
| CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF ROMAN COINS FROM PELAGONIA (NORTH MACEDONIA) DETERMINED BY THE SEM-EDS METHOD | |
| Хемиски состав на римските монети од Пелагонија (Северна Македонија) одреден со методата СЕМ-ЕДС..... | 275–279 |
| MGK-2021-6-GK-02- Ivan Boev, Blažo Boev | |
| SHOCKED QUARTZ IN THE SAMPLES FROM ARCHEOLOGICAL LOCALITY STOBI | |
| Шок кварц во примероците од археолошкиот локалитет Стоби | 281–295 |

ИНДЕКС НА АВТОРИ – AUTHORS INDEX

Абази, Сеад, 2-ID-02, 2-ID-03, 2-ID-04,
Aleksandrov, Marin, 3-EG-07,
Ангелов, Ванчо, 2-ID-01,
Angelova, Elena, **1-OF-01**, , 2-ID-01,
Андov, Ивица, 2-ID-05,

Benderev, Alexey, 3-EG-05,
Boev, Blažo, **0-PL-01**, **1-OF-02**, 3-EG-01,
6-GK-02,
Boev, Ivan, 1-OF-02, **1-OF-03**, **5-GH-01**,
6-GK-01, **6-GK-02**,
Bogićević, Katarina, 1-OF-0,
Буов, Александар, **4-PG-02**, 4-PG-04,

Gadzhalov, Aleksandar, **3-EG-040**,
Gardić, Vojka, 1-OF-01,
Gorgjiev, Lazar, **3-EG-07**,

Dimitrijević, Silvana, 1-OF-01,
Димов, Ѓорѓи, 2-ID-07, 3-EG-02,
Дрогрешка, Катерина, **1-OF-08**,

Eugenia Tarassova, 3-EG-05,

Ивановски, Ласте, 2-ID-01,
Илијовски, Златко, 2-ID-05,

Filev, Kiril, 3-EG-03,

Јовановска, Тамара, 2-ID-02,
Јовановски, Милорад, 2-ID-04,

Kamberović, Enve, 3-EG-06,
Katanić, Petar, 3-EG-06,
Крулановик, Мила, 2-ID-06,
Knežević, Slobodan, 1-OF-09,
Koller, Friedrich, 1-OF-06,

Lepitkova, Sonja, 5-GH-01,

Манева, Марија, 2-ID-02, **4-PG-03**,
Marinova, Irina, 3-EG-04,
Merza, Tola, 3-EG-06,
Милановски, Моме, **2-ID-06**,
Мирчовски, Bojo, 2-ID-05, **2-ID-07**,
Mitrev, Saše, **1-OF-04**,
Михайловски, Стојан, **2-ID-05**,

Најдовска, Јасмина, 1-OF-08,
Неделковска, Бојана, 2-ID-02

Неделковска, Наташа, 2-ID-01,
Nenadić, Draženko, 1-OF-09,
Николовска Атанасовска, Александра, 2-ID-04,
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3. ЕКОНОМСКА ГЕОЛОГИЈА

Металогенија

Минерални ресурси

Енергетски ресурси

Техногени наоѓачишта

TECHNO-ECONOMIC PARAMETERS OF THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF CENTRAL PART ORE BODY, BUČIM COPPER MINE, REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

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A b s t r a c t: Calculated ore-bearing coefficient in the Northeastern part of the Central Ore Body, Bučim Mine was 0.51%, meaning that within the ore body boundaries 49% of mass is not mineralized somehow, which is slightly different than the remaining three ore bodies within the Bučim porphyry copper mine. The calculated value of variation coefficient (V) has shown value of 58.65% that is in the range of 43–100%, which displays that this ore body belongs to the third group of deposits with uneven mineralization. An average copper and gold concentrations were determined as 0.229% Cu and 0.232 g/t Au, respectively. Minimal economic content (MEC) within the Northeastern part of the Central Ore Body, as represent of this kind of mineralization, was determined as 0.205% Cu. In similar manner was calculated the lowest copper boundary (cutoff grade), which have shown value of 0.127% Cu and thus allowing certain decrease of contents in exploited ore. Also, there were calculated so called copper monometal values, which included influence of the present gold in the ore. Calculated copper monometal was set at relatively fair 0.2388% Cu that represents solid mainstay for exploitation of copper in these low percentage ores. Calculated ore reserves in this particular part of the Central Part ore body were 12 303 965 t of ore with 0.229% Cu, and 0.232 g/t Au and increased mine life for additional 2.15 years.

Key words: Northeastern part Central Ore Body, copper mineralization, variation coefficient

ТЕХНО-ЕКОНОМСКИ ПАРАМЕТРИ НА СЕВЕРОИСТОЧНИОТ ДЕЛ ОД ЦЕНТРАЛНОТО РУДНО ТЕЛО, РУДНИК ЗА БАКАР БУЧИМ, РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА

А п с т р а к т: Пресметаниот коефициент на рудносност во Североисточниот дел од Централното Рудно Тело, рудник Бучим изнесува 0,51 %, што значи дека границите на рудното тело 49 % од масата не е минерализирана, што е нешто поразлично од останатите три рудни тела во рамките на рудникот за бакар Бучим. Пресметаната вредност за коефициентот на варијација (V) покажа вредност од 58,65% која е во опсегот од 43 до 100%, која покажува дека ова рудно тело припаѓа на третата група наоѓалишта со нерамномерна минерализација. Средните концентрации на бакар и злато се одредени како 0,229% Cu и 0,232 g/t Au, соодветно. Минималната економска содржина (МЕС) во рудното тело Североисточниот дел од Централното Рудно Тело, како претставник на овој тип на минерализација, беше одредена како 0,205% Cu. На сличен начин беше пресметана најниската гранична содржина на бакарот (ГС), која покажа вредност од 0,127% Cu што дозволува одредено намалување на содржините во рудата која се експлоатира. Исто така, пресметани се вредностите за таканаречениот бакар монометал, кои го вклучуваат влијанието на присутното злато во рудата. Пресметаниот бакар монометал е поставен на релативно коректните 0,2388% Cu што претставува солидна основа за експлоатација на бакарот од овие нископроцентни руди. Пресметаните рудни резерви во овој дел од Централното Рудно Тело беа 12 303 965 t на руда со 0,229% Cu и 0,232 g/t Au и го зголеми векот на рудникот за дополнителни 2,15 години.

Клучни зборови: Североисточен дел од Централно рудно тело, бакарна минерализација, коефициент на варијација

INTRODUCTION

The only active porphyry Cu mine, the Bučim Mine is located in the border area between the Serbo-Macedonian Massif (SMM) and the Vardar

Zone (VZ) and in terms of metallogeny it belongs to the famous Lece-Chalkidiki metallogenic zone (Serafimovski, 1993). The deposit itself is located in eastern central parts of the Republic North Macedonia, 10 km western of the town of Radoviš. Here

we would like to stress some facts for the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body, which is one of the four bodies within the Bučim copper mine that is in active exploitation. The Cu-Au mineralization within this ore body is mainly of primary type, formed during hydrothermal processes at several subsequent stages within the temperature range 300 – 400°C (Čifliganec, 1987; Serafimovski et al., 2013). The latest findings defined ores with copper concentrations in the range 0.1 to 0.359% Cu, while gold concentrations were high as well, reaching up to 0.38 g/t Au. Above mentioned features of this ore mineralization gave us an initiative to calculate several important techno-economic parameters, which define the economic type of this mineralization. Namely, the degree of ore bearing in these types of ore mineralization is variable, but calculation at particular levels and different drill holes gave the more realistic ratio of mixed types of mineralization within this ore body. Some techno-economic parameters related to the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body can be found in previous works (Čifliganec, 1987; Serafimovski et al., 2013).

GEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Geological setting of the Bučim copper porphyry deposit consists of the Precambrian metamorphic (gneiss, micaschist and amphibolite) and Tertiary rocks. Gneisses are the most common lithology members and are the most favorable lithology setting for deposition of ore mineralization. Several alternating varieties of gneisses are determined according to their mineral composition: biotitic, amphibole-biotitic, micas, metasomatic etc. Tertiary magmatic rocks are present as several latitic subvolcanic-volcanic crosscuts and andesite-latites around which three ore bodies are linedated, which points to direct relationship of the magmatism and mineralization in the deposit. Spatially and paragenetically porphyry copper mineralization is related to latites and latite-andesites. They occur as small subvolcanic intrusions (dikes and necks) distributed NNW-SSE and NE-SW along fault structures and with pronounced holo to hipo-crystalline porphyritic structure and massive texture. The age of the rocks ranges from 27.5 to 24.5 m.y. (Stojanov and Serafimovski, 1990).

ORE MINERALIZATIONS

The Bučim deposit is composed of a magmatic complex consisting of three proven finger-like porphyry stocks (Central Part, Vršnik and Bunar-

džik) while the Čukar ore body, a supergene mineralization developed in gneiss, has already been mined out (Figure 1; Čifliganec, 1987). More than five decades of study of this deposit have shown that it is characterized by a complex mineral assemblage and mineral paragenesis (Serafimovski, 1993; Stojanov and Serafimovski 1990; Čifliganec 1987; Serafimovski 1990; Serafimovski et al., 1990; Serafimovski et al., 1996; Čifliganec et al. 1997). The Central Part, Bunardžik and Vršnik ore bodies are related to andesitic porphyry intrusions, whereas the Čukar ore body consists of a supergene copper mineralization [9]. The primary sulphide mineralization plays the major role in production of copper. The Central Part ore body is the most important ore body in the Bucim deposit. It hosts nearly 70% of the total mineralization, which are formed in gneiss and round latite dike, and represents a typical example of primary copper mineralization (Čifliganec 1987). The dimensions, registered so far are: (a) about 250 m vertical interval (at the 650-400 m absolute level) and (b) on a plane, the mineralized surface in the upper portion of the ore body, together with the andesite intrusion, has a diameter of some 600 m. That means that the Central part ore body has the form of an irregular ring

There have been identified the following ore minerals: pyrite, magnetite, chalcopyrite, rutile, sphene, ilmenite, hematite, pyrrhotite, vallerite, cubanite, sphalerite, galena, bismuthinite, bornite, enargite, native gold, lineite. Also, there has been confirmed presence of Bi-Se association: bismuthine, galenobismuthine, friedrichite, krupkaite, emplectite, laitakarite, native bismuth and cosalite (Čifliganec 1987).



Fig. 1. Simplified geological map of the Bučim deposit (Stojanov and Serafimovski, 1990)

- 1) Andesite and latite, 2) Amphibolite, 3) Muscovite schist,
- 4) Gneiss, 5) Ore body, 6) Fault, 7) Ore body contour

TECHNO-ECONOMIC PARAMETERS

Techno-economic parameters are one of the most important links in the chain of economic evaluation of a certain ore deposit, so in this part of the paper we are going to focus on them. The major parameters of the techno-economic evaluation of the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body situated in the Bučim copper mine directly are pointing out to a possibility of productive exploitation of copper ore from this particular ore body and possibility to create profit. Here in more details are given results from calculations of ore-bearing coefficient, variation coefficient, average concentrations of major ore metals (Cu, Au), minimal economic concentration, cutoff grade, calculation of mine life as a function of calculated ore reserves.

Ore-bearing coefficient. As already mentioned elsewhere [3] the ore-bearing coefficient defines the ratio between the total mineralized area within the ore body and certain poor (waste) zones (content below the limit of 0.15% Cu), within that same ore body. In the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body from the 8 exploration cross sections with 24 drill holes and 2999.6 m of mineralized area, 1527 m were mineralized above 0.15% Cu while the 1472.6 m displayed mineralization below the limit of 0.15% Cu, but however significantly over the Clark values. Using the formula given below (Čifliganec 1993), we have managed to calculate aforementioned coefficient.

$$K_r = \frac{m_1}{m_2} = \frac{1527}{2999.6} = 0.51$$

where:

K_r – Ore-bearing coefficient,

m_1 – Productive interval (mineralized area >0.15% Cu),

m_2 – Total mineralized interval.

This gave us an opportunity to calculate the ore-bearing coefficient of 0.51, which points out that within the defined ore body there are 49% of rock mass below the accepted minimal economic concentration of 0.15% Cu. Additionally we would like to stress out that the ore-bearing coefficients throughout all drill holes ranged from 0.12 up to 1.00 while along the exploration cross sections those ranges were slightly narrower, 0.15–0.69.

Variation coefficient: This coefficient defines spatial distribution of useful mineral components in

the the deposit or more precisely how evenly mineralization is represented in the deposit (ore body). In the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body's case there were drilled 33 exploration drill holes of which 24 drill holes defined the ore body. In those 24 drill holes were sampled 715 samples, which have defined an average content of Cu, Au, Ag and Fe₃O₄. The basic parameters for calculation of variation coefficient in the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body were selected from 7 the most representative drill holes totaling 515 m (Table 1).

First of all we have calculated an average copper content, as it is given below:

$$C = \frac{\sum c}{N} = \frac{165.734}{715} = 0.2318\%$$

where:

N – total number of samples

C – Average copper concentration (Cu%)

Then we have proceeded with calculation of median square deviation and variation coefficient as given below:

$$\delta = \sqrt{\frac{\sum X^2}{N-1}} = \sqrt{\frac{13.105}{714}} = \sqrt{0.018354} = 0.136$$

where:

$\sum X^2$ – Sum of square deviations from an average values

δ – medium square deviation

$$V = \frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{C} = \frac{0.231 \times 100}{0.135478} = \frac{23.10}{0.135478} = 58.65\%$$

V – Variation coefficient

The value of 58.65% for the variation coefficient is within the range of 32–92%, which points out to an irregular mineralization representative for most of the hydrothermal copper and polymetallic mineralizations.

An average concentration of useful component(s). An average concentration of useful component represents the average presence of one or more components within an ore body. By the basic method of calculation of ore reserves within the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body (level blocks) it was determined that for calculated B and C1 category of reserves the average values of useful components are 0.229% Cu and 0.232g/t Au.

Table 1

Basic parameters for calculation of variation coefficient in the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body, Bučim Mine

| Cross section | Drill hole | N Tot. no. samples | C ⁻ (%) average con- tents Cu | $\Sigma(x^2)$ Sum of an average values squares | δ average square discrep. | V (%) variation coefficient |
|---------------|------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| BV-BV' | B-52 | 2 | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | B-157 | 15 | 0.161 | 0.221 | 0.126 | 78.26 |
| | B-159 | 21 | 0.195 | 1.055 | 0.23 | 117.95 |
| BVI-BVI' | 3 | 38 | 0.18 | 1.276 | 0.173 | 96.11 |
| | B-51 | 14 | 0.27 | 0.22 | 0.141 | 52.22 |
| | B-158 | 15 | 0.189 | 0.086 | 0.078 | 41.27 |
| BVII-BVII' | 2 | 29 | 0.23 | 0.306 | 0.1 | 43.48 |
| | B-40 | 61 | 0.17 | 0.37 | 0.1 | 58.82 |
| | B-56 | 8 | 0.27 | 0.15 | 0.141 | 52.22 |
| | B-120p | 23 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0 | 0.00 |
| | B-155 | 23 | 0.359 | 1.344 | 0.247 | 68.80 |
| | B-408 | 8 | 0.206 | 0.029 | 0.064 | 31.07 |
| | 5 | 123 | 0.22 | 1.993 | 0.141 | 64.09 |
| BVIII-BVIII' | B-31 | 15 | 0.27 | 0.36 | 0.173 | 64.07 |
| | B-32 | 39 | 0.21 | 0.49 | 0.1 | 47.62 |
| | B-154 | 34 | 0.251 | 0.639 | 0.139 | 55.38 |
| | B-412 | 70 | 0.315 | 3.37 | 0.221 | 70.16 |
| | B-412k | 63 | 0.208 | 0.499 | 0.09 | 43.27 |
| | B-413 | 8 | 0.17 | 0.186 | 0.163 | 95.88 |
| | 6 | 229 | 0.25 | 5.544 | 0.141 | 56.40 |
| BIX-BIX' | SB-34 | 88 | 0.21 | 1.27 | 0.1 | 47.62 |
| | B-411 | 33 | 0.259 | 0.267 | 0.1 | 38.61 |
| | B-411pr | 23 | 0.25 | 0.095 | 0.066 | 26.40 |
| | B-411k | 70 | 0.261 | 1.65 | 0.141 | 54.02 |
| | 4 | 214 | 0.24 | 3.282 | 0.141 | 58.75 |
| | B-152 | 15 | 0.112 | 0.05 | 0 | 0.00 |
| | BX-BX' | 36 | 0.239 | 0.365 | 0.102 | 42.68 |
| BXI-BXI' | 2 | 51 | 0.2 | 0.415 | 0.102 | 51.00 |
| | B-410 | 23 | 0.221 | 0.200 | 0.095 | 42.99 |
| BXII-BXII' | B-417 | 8 | 0.209 | 0.089 | 0.113 | 54.07 |
| Σ | 24 | 715 | 0.23 | 13.105 | 0.136 | 58.65 |

Calculating the Minimal Economic Concentration (MEC). This calculation should provide a clear answer to the question, does the explored deposit or ore body (represented by calculated reserves within) can fulfill the economic requirements for viable exploitation of that ore body. Aforementioned calculation should display, does the exploitation will cover all the production costs and in the same time to achieve adequate profit, equivalent to the required cost effectiveness coefficient. Bearing in mind that here we were working only with one small part of the Bučim deposits, we used Gudalin's formula (Janković, S. and Milovanović, D., 1985; Čifliganec 1987) where have been considered the

following parameters: exploitation costs, utilization of the mineral resource, price of the final product or more precisely the final ore product (copper, gold and silver). As we already mentioned, this calculation was performed by the formula:

$$MEC = \frac{100 \cdot S}{Ie \cdot Io \cdot Im \cdot \left(Co - Sm - \frac{100 \cdot St}{g \cdot Im} \right)}$$

where:

S – costs of exploitation and processing of 1 t ore (Te and To) 9.0 US\$/t

r – dilution during the exploitation 3%

I_e – dilution coefficient during the exploitation
($1 - (r/100)$)

I_o – coefficient of extraction during enrichment,
86%

I_m – efficiency coefficient during the metallurgical processing, 95%

C_o – market price of copper (at the moment of calculation), 6700 US\$/t

S_m – costs of metallurgical processing of the final product unit, 1000 US\$/t

S_t – cost for transport per tonne ore concentrate, 30 US\$/t

g – concentration of metal in ore concentrate, 20%

$$\begin{aligned} MEC &= \frac{100 \cdot S}{I_e \cdot I_o \cdot I_m \cdot \left(C_o - S_m - \frac{100 \cdot S_t}{g \cdot I_m} \right)} = \\ &= \frac{100 \cdot 9.0}{0.07 \cdot 0.86 \cdot 0.95 \left(6700 - 1000 - \frac{100 \cdot 30}{20 \cdot 0.95} \right)} = \\ &= \frac{900}{0.79249 \cdot (5700 - 157.895)} = \\ &= \frac{900}{4392.063} = 0.205\% Cu \end{aligned}$$

$$MEC = 0.205 \% Cu.$$

Calculated minimal economic concentration displays that for a cost effective production the MEC value should not be lower than 0.205% Cu.

Calculation of monometal. Ore reserves calculation of the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body have shown that it is natural product that contains in average 0.229% Cu and associated gold 0.232g/t Au. Comparing those values of useful components with the necessary MEC (0.205% Cu) we may conclude that the ore body have contents higher than the minimal one. In those case we trying to calculate all present useful components to one monometal (in this case copper). That calculation was performed using transformation factor (f) for associated component (Au) on the basis of Cu expressed as monometal. The transformation factor is calculated as follows (Čifliganec 1987):

$$f_{Au} = \frac{C_{Au} \cdot I_{oAu} \cdot I_{mAu} \cdot C_{oAu}}{C_{Cu} \cdot I_{oCu} \cdot I_{mCu} \cdot C_{oCu}}$$

C_{Au} – average content of Au in ore (g/t),

I_{oAu} – usage efficiency of Au in flotation process (%),

I_{mAu} – metallurgical usage of Au (%),

C_{oAu} – gold in concentrate (g/t),

C_{Cu} – average content of Cu in ore (%),

I_{oCu} – usage efficiency of Cu in flotation process (%),

I_{mCu} – metallurgical usage of Cu (%),

C_{oCu} – copper in concentrate (%).

In that manner we have calculated for the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{Au} &= \frac{0.232 \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.92 \cdot 15}{2.29 \cdot 0.86 \cdot 0.95 \cdot 20} = \frac{1.6008}{37.4186} = \\ &= 0.04278 \end{aligned}$$

$$Cu = C_{Cu} + (C_{oCu} \cdot f_{Au})$$

$$Cu = 0.229 + (0.229 \cdot 0.42781) = 0.238797\%$$

$$Cu_{monometal} = 0.238797\%$$

The calculation above have shown that useful components calculated to the Cu monometal is 0.238797% Cu, which is higher than the needed one calculated with MEC (0.205% Cu) and in that direction the ore reserves can be considered as economically viable itself.

Cutoff grade.- This grade defined as the level of mineral in an ore below which it is not economically feasible to mine (GS) was calculated after intensive analysis of several parameters such are: dilution coefficient of ore during excavation (3%; $L_e=100-(3/100)=0.9$), efficiency of usability during enrichment ($L_o=86\%$), efficiency of usability during metallurgical processing ($L_m=95.0\%$), cost for enrichment of 1t ore ($S_o=5.60$ US\$/t), transport costs for 1 t of ore concentrate ($S_t=25$ US\$/t), costs for metallurgical processing per unit of final product ($S_m=1000$ US\$/t), market price of copper at the moment of calculation ($C_o=6700$ US\$/t), costs for excavation of 1t of ore and copper metal content in ore concentrate ($g=20\%$). In that manner we have calculated the cutoff grade as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} GS &= \frac{100 \cdot S_o}{L_e \cdot L_o \cdot L_m \cdot \left(C_o - S_m - \frac{100 \cdot S_t}{g \cdot L_m} \right)} = \\ &= \frac{100 \cdot 5.6}{0.97 \cdot 0.86 \cdot 0.95 \left(6700 - 1000 - \frac{100 \cdot 25}{20 \cdot 0.95} \right)} = \\ &= \frac{560}{0.97 \cdot 0.86 \cdot 0.95 \left(5700 - \frac{2500}{19} \right)} = 0.127\% \end{aligned}$$

$$GS = 0.127\% Cu.$$

The calculated cutoff grade takes only copper in consideration although we have gold as valuable components in the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body's ore, also. Bearing in mind all the above calculated parameters we have calculated the ore reserves within the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body and corresponding concentrations of certain metals in them (Table 2).

Table 2

Calculation of ore reserves in the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body

| Parameters | | Category | | |
|------------|------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|
| | | B | C ₁ | B + C ₁ |
| Commodity | unit | 5 455 946 | 6 848 019 | 12 303 965 |
| Cu | % | 0.240 | 0.221 | 0.229 |
| Au | g/t | 0.287 | 0.189 | 0.232 |
| Cu | t | 13 078 | 15 141 | 28 219 |
| Au | kg | 1 566 | 1 294 | 2 860 |

The total of calculated ore reserves in the Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body are in an amount of 12 303 965 t (B+C₁ category) with an average content of 0.229% Cu and 0.232 g/t Au.

CONCLUSION

The Northeastern part of the Central Part ore body is very important ore body for the production of copper ore in the Bučim Mine with calculated ore reserves of 12 303 965 t of ore with an average content of 0.229% Cu and 0.232 g/t Au and specific style of primary porphyry copper ore mineralization, followed by gold contents, since the calculated reserves are the last ones to be produced from this mine. The ore bearing coefficient was calculated at 0.51, variation coefficient 58.65%, minimal economic concentration 0.205% Cu and cutoff grade of 0.127% Cu. All these techno-economic parameters

have positive effects to the exploitation of this ore body, which with existing capacity of the Bučim mine provides additional 2.15 years of production.

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