



Expert opinion confirms: No abnormalities in water quality in the Voghji River in Armenia

Karlsruhe, August 6, 2021

The CRONIMET group of companies has been facing allegations of environmental pollution in Armenia and Azerbaijan for several weeks. More specifically, the Voghji River, which flows from Armenian territory into Azerbaijan, is said to be heavily polluted. The allegations relate to the Armenian ZCMC mine, in which CRONIMET held shares until 2019.

CRONIMET comprehensively and transparently supports clarification of the reasons behind these allegations. Therefore, CRONIMET has informed the Armenian ZCMC copper-molybdenum mine, which has been named as the culprit, about the allegations and asked for a statement. ZCMC subsequently provided a water analysis, which CRONIMET had reviewed by a recognized, independent soil and water analysis expert based in Germany.

Allegations that the water ZCMC used in mining and subsequently returned to a nearby river after treatment was highly contaminated were clearly refuted by the expert report. According to the independent expert's analysis of ZCMC's documents, the report does not give any indication that the river has been polluted by ZCMC.

On the contrary, it shows that the measured values for water quality do not exhibit any significant anomalies. Only the pH value is slightly elevated, as well as the manganese value.

In detail: In the Drinking Water Ordinance of the Federal Republic of Germany, a guideline range of 6.5 to 9.5 is specified for the pH value. According to the expert opinion, the average pH value for the water discharged into the Armenian River is 10.375. With this slightly increased value, it can be assumed that after a short flow distance there is no longer any negative influence on the pH value of the river.

In the Drinking Water Ordinance of the Federal Republic of Germany a limit value of 0.05 mg/l is specified for manganese. Here, the value for the discharged water is 0.068 mg/l. For manganese, too, it can be assumed that even after a short flow distance there is no longer any negative influence on the water quality of the river, especially since the manganese concentration recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) is 0.4 mg/l and thus far above the values mentioned.

Those responsible for the CRONIMET group of companies are surprised by the accusations against the company. Not only because CRONIMET has not held any shares in ZCMC since 2019. But also because numerous steps were taken to improve water quality and over 60 million dollars were invested in environmental protection measures during the period in which the group of companies was the majority shareholder of the mine (until 2019).



About the CRONIMET Holding Group

The CRONIMET Holding Group, headquartered in Karlsruhe, Germany, is a global specialist for stainless steel scrap, ferroalloys and primary metals. For four decades, the company has been supplying raw materials to the stainless steel producing industry. The focus is on trading & sales, recycling and production & services. The CRONIMET Holding Group was founded in 1980 and today has a global presence with more than 1500 employees at over 70 locations.

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