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Process to authorize the Crucitas Project takes normal course

SETENA got to know detailed Environmental Impact Study

- Use of high technology shows sustainability of mining project

In a work session that was a real marathon, it went on for almost 12 hours, Industrias Infinito SA (IISA) presented the environmental impact study, showing how safe the Crucitas Project is, to the Secretaria Tecnica Ambiental (SETENA).

The auditorium of the High Technology National Center (so called CENAT for its acronym in Spanish), Dr. Franklin Chang Diaz, was the scenario where more than 40 experts, among representatives from : SETENA, Geology and Mines Office, the Embassy of Canada and others, got to know the detailed report of the DEPPAT company of Costa Rica and the Jacques Withford company of Canada, the consulting firms in charge of the environmental impact study.

During this meeting , those presents were particularly interested in the presentation done by officials of the INCO TECH company from Canada, regarding the future use of a plant for the destruction of cyanide in the Crucitas Project. This state-of-the-art technology was patented by the INCO company.

“There is no doubt that INCO’s explanation has cleared one of the main worries of the members of the SETENA and it was recognized as a very favorable aspect within the mitigations measures included in the environmental impact study”, IISA’s General Manager, Jesus Carvajal, said.

Carvajal added that the future use of high technology plus the social and environmental compensation measures will make Crucitas “a real example of sustained development”

“Together with the plant for the destruction of Cyanide, there are other compensation measures such as the commitment of leaving three times more forest than what it currently exists in the area of the project and the protection of the existing species of fauna and flora”, Carvajal detailed and added that one of the most important actions of social compensation will be the simultaneous development of forest, agricultural and livestock activities, that will generate more employment and that will continue even after the closure of the mine.

Exceptional Presentation

This type of hearings for the presentation of an environmental impact study are not the normal procedures followed by the SETENA. However, this Secretariat decided to do so in the case of the Crucitas Project because of the interest the topic had aroused among the different sectors.

“To us, this was a valuable opportunity to proof that the Crucitas Project will be a model of social and environmental development”, the Manager pointed out.

Both SETENA’s Superior Director, Eduardo Madrigal, and the Secretary General, Humberto Cerdas, appeared to be satisfied with the presentation of the study, which had as a guest Canada’s ambassador, Louise Ledge.

“It was an act of transparency and an action that proves that the process for the consolidation of the Crucitas Project still continues, in the framework of a new environmental policy that respects the company’s vested rights”, IISA’s General Manager emphasized.