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Gold mining project in Crucitas

Mining company appealed today dubious resolution from the SETENA

- Evaluators' arguments lack scientific objectivity
- Some conclusions show that the environmental impact study was not revised in detail

Industrias Infinito SA (IISA) filed this Friday, within the term established by law, a Nullity Incidental Plea and an Appeal to reverse the judgment against resolution # 272-2003 of the SETENA that rejected the environmental impact study presented in March of last year to prove the environmental feasibility of the Crucitas Project.

“After a one-year wait and after having meticulously revised the arguments due to which our environmental impact study was rejected, we are now refuting each one of the arguments and we can prove that most of them are simple value judgments that are far from the scientific criteria that should characterize this kind of analysis”, IISA's general manager, Jesus Carvajal, said.

Carvajal added that the conclusions contained on the nine pages of such resolution were contrasted in an appeal of 47 pages where three types of deceitful criteria stand out:

- we are claiming aspects that were not requested by the SETENA when it determined the reference terms for the construction, operation and closure of the mine.
- The resolution states that some criteria was not included when they are actually included in the study, which shows that it was not read responsibly
- The resolution is mainly based on the opinions that two geologists expressed on each report and that were hid from the company during the whole revision process

“This last aspect forms part of the arguments that support the appeal on the grounds of unconstitutionality that we filed last Monday to the Constitutional Court since we consider that, in our case, the proper process was violated in multiple ways”, Carvajal indicated and added that also acts were hidden, the study's record was altered, there was a leak of confidential information and a full participation in the process was denied.

“We were able to determine that 25 percent of the observations are incorrect or false; 45 per cent of the observations lack any kind of scientific foundations and the remaining 30 per cent are observations on aspects that were not required by the SETENA in the terms of reference for the elaboration of our Environmental Impact Study”, IISA's Manager said.

The SETENA would be the last resort of a series of actions taken by the present government against opencast gold mining in general and the Crucitas Project in particular.

The Crucitas Project has invested, over the past 10 years, starting from the exploration phase until the grant of the concession for exploitation was obtained, \$34 millions and intends to invest \$30 millions more only in the construction of the first high technology eco-mine of Central America.

The deposit, located in an isolated area of the district of Cutris to the North of San Carlos, would represent a direct benefit to Costa Rica that would equal \$90 millions, taking into account that the extraction of 600 thousand ounces of gold is expected. All this, without considering the indirect benefit for the area of San Carlos and especially for the inhabitants of the communities near the project.