

Mechel Signs Ecological Agreement on Reducing Impact on Water Resources

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CHELYABINSK, November 17, 2020 - Mechel PAO (MOEX:MTLR)(NYSE:MTL), one of the leading Russian mining and metals companies, reports signing an agreement on ecological cooperation with Chelyabinsk Region's Governor Alexey Texler. According to this agreement, Chelyabinsk Metallurgical Plant is due to implement a complex of measures reducing the plant's impact on water resources and improving waste water cleansing till 2024.

Chelyabinsk Region's Governor Alexey Texler and Mechel PAO's Chief Executive Officer Oleg Korzhov signed the agreement.

According to the agreement, Chelyabinsk Metallurgical Plant is due to implement a series of water-control measures. The plant will stop waste water disposal at Kashtak and Pershino discharges, provide new cleansing equipment for the discharges at the pond at Balandino, upgrade recirculating water systems at its chief facilities, increase the use of closed-cycle water to reduce waste disposal, and improve the efficiency of its storm-water drainage system.

"Ecology is not only about clean air, but clean water too. And it is important for all our industrial facilities to remain within the limits of ecological norms. Today we fixed in writing solutions which will, within a few years, bring the discharge of all industrial waste water into the Miass River practically to a halt. Mechel-Coke will completely stop discharging waste water, while Chelyabinsk Metallurgical Plant will dramatically cut down on the discharge as two of the collector ponds will stop emitting waste water into the river completely, while the third one will be fully overhauled and will dramatically reduce its impact on the environment. The discharge will be less than the norms require, with the total volume down 85%. I am grateful to the company for coming to this agreement. This is a major achievement," Chelyabinsk Region's Governor Alexey Texler said.

"We expect that the measures outlined in this agreement will help reduce waste water discharge into the Miass River to one-third, with the total investment of approximately 1.5 billion rubles. We will be able to determine exact figures for the reduced impact and investment once the ecological auditing, which is also part of this agreement, is complete and design solutions are developed. We have already began implementing some measures reducing our impact on water resources. For example, this year we began cleaning the collection ponds at Balandino and Kashtak from their benthal deposits. This will help increase the ponds' usable capacity and improve sedimentation, so that only clean water would reach the Miass River," Mechel PAO's Chief Executive Officer Oleg Korzhov said.

Mechel also continues implementing a series of ecological measures outlined in the quadrilateral agreement signed by Mechel, Russia's Natural Resources Ministry, Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service (Rosprirodnadzor) and Chelyabinsk Region's government in 2019 in an effort to reduce air emissions. The program is due to be completed in 2024. Investment in the program will total over 10 billion rubles, with waste emissions due to be reduced by 14,200 tonnes a year. The upgrade will involve all key facilities of Chelyabinsk Metallurgical Plant and Mechel-Coke. Some measures are already complete. For example, in March Chelyabinsk Metallurgical Plant launched two key industrial objects after a major overhaul - the blast furnace #4 and oxygen converter #1. Both facilities were practically rebuilt anew, with the converter now equipped with a modern three-stage gas treatment system. The overhaul cost a total of 4.5 million rubles. In 2019-2020, Mechel-Coke reconstructed its coke battery #1 and completed the upgrade of its coke-pitch workshop #4. Other measures are still being implemented.

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Mechel is an international mining and steel company. Its products are marketed in Europe, Asia, North and South America, Africa. Mechel unites producers of coal, iron ore concentrate, steel, rolled products, ferroalloys, heat and electric power. All of its enterprises work in a single production chain, from raw materials to high value-added products.

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