

**DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

No 319-N of 4 April 2013

**ON APPROVING THE PROCEDURE FOR FREEZING THE MINING OPENINGS AND  
STRUCTURES RELATED TO THE EXTRACTION OF MINERALS AND REPEALING  
DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA  
NO 485-N OF 31 MARCH 2005**

Based on part 1 of Article 60 of the Subsoil Code of the Republic of Armenia, as well as part 2 of Article 72 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On legal acts", the Government of the Republic of Armenia ***decides to:***

1. Approve the procedure for freezing the mining openings and structures related to the extraction of minerals, pursuant to the Annex.
2. Repeal Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia "On approving the procedure for liquidation and termination of operation (conservation) of mining openings" No 485-N of 31 March 2005.
3. This Decision shall enter into force on the day following its official promulgation.

**Prime Minister  
of the Republic of Armenia**

**T. Sargsyan**

8 April 2013

Yerevan

**Annex**

**To Decision of the Government  
of the Republic of Armenia  
No 319-N of 4 April 2013**

**PROCEDURE**

**FOR FREEZING MINING OPENINGS AND STRUCTURES RELATED  
TO THE EXTRACTION OF MINERALS**

1. This Procedure shall regulate the relations pertaining to the freezing of mining openings related to the extraction of minerals and structures related to the operation thereof (hereinafter referred to as "the facility").
2. Provisions of this Procedure shall apply to the subsoil user extracting minerals.
3. This Procedure shall define requirements the objective of which shall be ensuring the following:
  - (1) safety of the location of people and the performance of works within the limits of the zone of harmful influence of frozen objects or separate mining openings and structures;
  - (2) preservation of frozen mining openings and structures for their use for purposes not related to the extraction of minerals;
  - (3) protection of the environment, buildings and structures from the harmful influence of mining openings.
4. Freezing of the object shall be the temporary termination of works related to the extraction of minerals — mandatory implementation of measures for keeping or bringing mining openings and structures in a condition suitable for further use

for the purpose of continuing the further extraction of minerals or for the installation of facilities not related to the extraction of minerals and further measures for preventing people's access to the mining openings, ensuring safety of the population, protection of the environment, buildings and structures.

5. Freezing of the object shall be permitted in the case of temporary impossibility or inappropriateness of processing the mine or its separate area due to technical and economic, environmental, mountain-geological or other reasons, as well as in the case when mining openings of the mine or part of it for the installation of facilities not related to the extraction of minerals were considered as prospective.
6. Mining openings shall be frozen either in dry or wet modes.
7. In case of dry freezing, the existing drainage facilities shall remain in operation and provide drainage from mining openings. During the entire period of dry freezing, all main openings must be examined in accordance with the freezing project, not later than once every 2 years. The examination shall be carried out in conditions of free movement and ventilation.
8. In case of wet freezing, drainage works shall be stopped, openings shall be covered with water, the permissible duration of freezing shall be defined, without loss of mining openings, as well as without their drying, repair of fastenings, recovery of lifting works, ventilation and implementation of other measures. During wet freezing, all machine and equipment and material values of the facility shall be removed from the mining openings and stored.
9. Mining openings, which are registered by the authorised state body in the field of subsoil management (hereinafter referred to as "the authorised body") as prospective for the installation of facilities not related to the extraction of minerals, shall be subject to dry freezing.
10. The facility shall be frozen at the expense of funds of the subsoil user.

11. In the event of fire, flood, earthquake, storm and other natural disasters, as well as explosions, war, terrorism, civil war, mass disorders, riots, nationalisation and other force majeure, the subsoil freezing shall be implemented under the state programme, at the expense of funds of the State Budget of the Republic of Armenia or other financial sources not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
12. For freezing the facility, a mine freezing project shall be drawn up, which shall be subjected to environmental expert examination in the manner prescribed.
13. During the freezing of facilities processed underground, the following works shall be performed:
  - (1) holes formed in the surface of the earth as a result of the collapse of mine rocks on the underground opening shall be filled with barren rocks, and also the places of possible collapses shall be fenced;
  - (2) holes of vertical shafts and mine shall be completely filled with barren rocks up to the surface of the earth, covered by two solid laps made of reinforced concrete or metal wheels, one of which shall be built at the depth of the installation of rocks, the other — at the level of the surface of the earth;
  - (3) around the mouth of the frozen shaft, a strong fence with a height of at least 2.5 meters and a drainage ditch shall be built;
  - (4) openings with a surface on the surface of the earth shall be covered with a stone or reinforced concrete partition at a depth of 4-6 meters from the border of the rock, the mouth of the opening from the surface of the earth to the partition shall be filled with barren rocks and covered with a stone or reinforced concrete partition;

- (5) mining openings having outlets in riverbeds or water basins, as well as in possible accumulation areas of stormwater shall be dammed, covered, and have long-term distinctive marks to prevent water infiltration.
14. In case freezing facilities processed in an open manner, the following works shall be performed:
  - (1) in order to prevent the access of people and animals to the open mines, a fence or earth embankment shall be built with a height of at least 2,5 meters, at a distance of 5 meters from the possible collapse zone of the upper mine level of the open mine cut, and other safety measures shall be implemented;
  - (2) the open mines installed above the existing underground mine openings shall be frozen with due consideration of excluding the possibility of infiltration of water, gasses from drilling and blasting into the underground mining openings, as well as the possibility of rock collapse.
15. During the freezing of gas hazardous mining openings, the boundaries of the gas cut-off zone and the degree of danger of such zones shall be determined, as well as special measures for ensuring control over gas cut-off, preventing their penetration into above-ground buildings and structures shall be envisaged.
16. In self-igniting minerals, mining openings shall be frozen by observing special fire prevention measures for the entire freezing period.
17. In case of freezing facilities related to the extraction of precious, quartz, colourful stones and piezo-optical raw materials, measures for excluding the access of outsiders to the zone of the mentioned mineral formations shall be implemented.
18. In case of freezing the accumulators of dry storage industrial heaps, the following works shall be performed:

- (1) parameters of the dry storage accumulators (height, angle of inclination, etc.) shall be brought into compliance with the values ensuring the long-term stability of the accumulators;
  - (2) the surfaces of structures shall be reliably protected from water and wind floodings;
  - (3) accumulators made of toxic and radioactive rocks shall be isolated from the penetration of atmospheric precipitation;
  - (4) accumulators made of self-igniting rocks shall be isolated from the penetration of atmospheric precipitation and penetration of atmospheric air into the mass of the accumulator;
  - (5) the bases of dry storage accumulators shall be protected from from water coverage, underground and atmospheric water floodings.
19. During the freezing of tailings, sludge filters, and liquid heapu, drainage and dewatering systems shall be built in the facilities, the surface thereof shall be reliably protected from water and wind flooding, measures shall be developed and applied for the long-term maintenance of the strength and reliability of the dam.
20. The subsoil user extracting minerals applies in writing to the authorised body to obtain permission for freezing the facility.
21. The authorised body shall consider the application within 15 days from the date of receipt and make a decision on the expediency of freezing the facility.
22. The application on freezing the facility shall be rejected, where:
- (1) the project documentation for freezing the facility does not comply with the requirements of the regulatory technical acts;
  - (2) the expert opinion of the environmental body is negative.

23. Rejection of the application on freezing the facility may be appealed against through judicial procedure.
24. The authorised state body shall inform the applicant about the rejection of the application on freezing the facility within 10 days.
25. The record-registration of frozen facilities shall be carried out by the authorised body, by making a note about them in the register for right to subsoil use, in the line for the subsoil user carrying out the freezing of facilities.
26. The supervision over the fulfilment of the requirements of this Procedure shall be carried out by the authorised body.
27. The mining works in the frozen facility shall be resumed according to the mineral extraction project, which is an integral part of the subsoil use permit that has passed appropriate expert examinations within the time limit specified in the mine freezing project, by informing the authorised body about it.

**Chief of Staff of the Government  
of the Republic of Armenia**

**D. Sargsyan**