

The Current State of Innovation and Investment Activity at Mining Enterprises of Uzbekistan

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Abstract:

This article highlights the problems of more stable and balanced development of coal industry enterprises in the republic, consistent implementation of innovative and investment projects, increase in the production and supply of coal and coal products in recent years.

Keywords: coal, coal products, innovative, investment projects, coal mining, electricity, energy.

The basis of the effective development of the economy of Uzbekistan, along with natural and labor resources, is the country's scientific and technological capabilities, the rational use of which opens the way to the widespread development of industry in the information period. One of the complex processes is the establishment of a socio-economic system of an industrial enterprise engaged in innovative activities.

"Uzbekcoal" joint-stock company was selected as the object of this article, taking into account that it has a significant contribution to the industry of our country, as well as a long historical development.

Currently, there are 1 billion 832 million 800 thousand tons of coal reserves in Uzbekistan. Wherein, 1 billion 786 million 500 thousand tons of lignite reserves, 46 million 300 thousand tons of hard coal were discovered. In addition, there are approximately 323 million tons of reserves. Large reserves of coal are located in the southern regions of our country - Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya regions. Currently, coal mining is being carried out in 3 mines: Angren lignite mine, Shargun and Boysun coal mines. Estimates show that about 4 million tons of coal are mined in the

country per year.

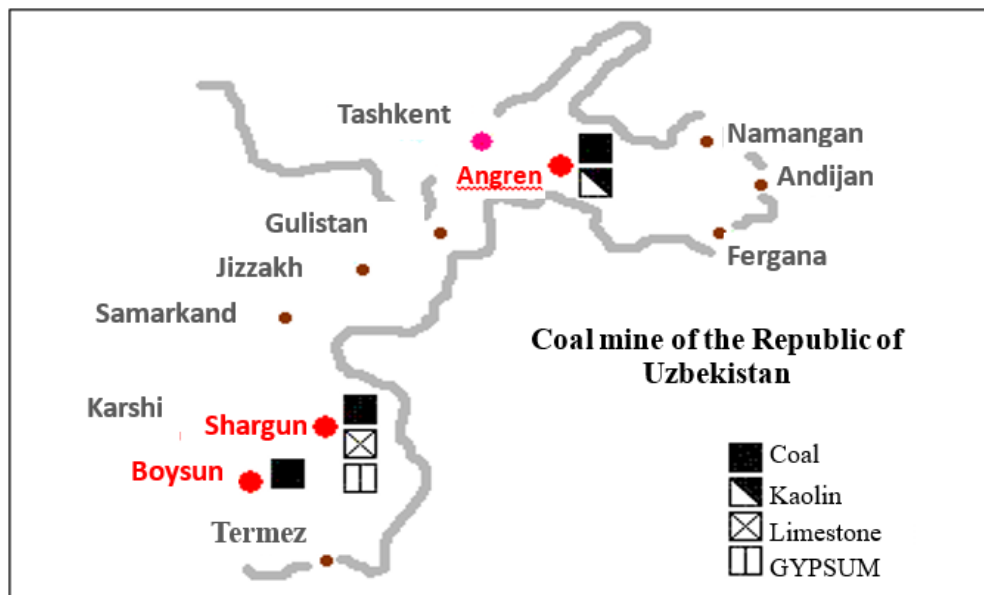


Figure 2.1 Dislocation of coal mines of Uzbekistan

The area of Angren lignite mine is 70 km², it was opened in 1933, and from 1940 coal mining is carried out. Discovered reserves amount to 1880 million tons. Angren coal area consists of lignite (group B2) with W_r35%, Ad₂₂%, Q_{sda} 29.5, Q_{ir} 13.4 MJ/kg. Coal mining is carried out by open-pit and underground mining methods. There is also an underground coal gasification station producing 500mln.m³ of gas per year.

The Angren coal mine, which is the largest coal enterprise not only in the republic, but also in Central Asia, was put into full operation in 1948, and the development of the coal industry of Uzbekistan began this year.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is one of the countries with a significant place in the world of electricity and energy production. The coal industry, which is a strategic sector of the energy industry, has a great importance in the volume of export products in our republic (chart 2.1).

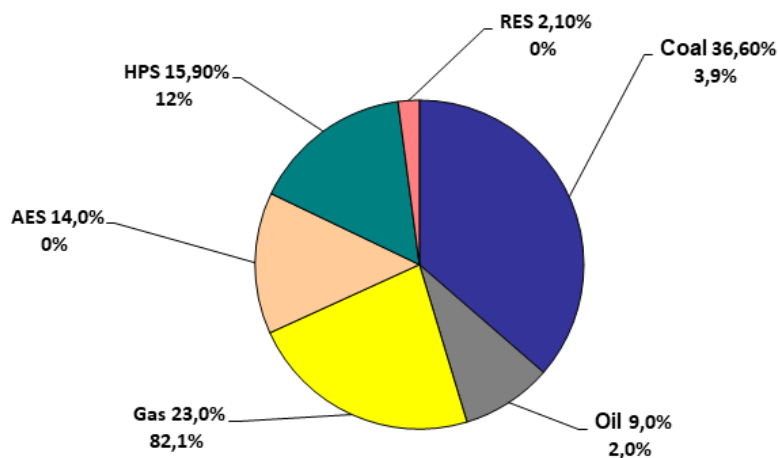


Chart 2.1. The global composition of electricity and energy production in Uzbekistan¹

¹ Information of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics

The main consumption of coal fuel is the electricity grid. It makes up more than 85% of all coal fuel. Also, the demand for coal is formed by industrial enterprises, social and communal spheres, and by the population.

The share of coal in the country's energy balance is 2.3%. It is necessary to increase this share in order to optimize the composition of consumption of energy sources.

In the coal industry enterprises of our republic, coal (lignite, hard coal) is mined in reserves and allocations, cement, ceramic raw materials, limestone, fluxes, burta and crushed stones necessary for the production of portlandcement, sewage pipes, and wood chips, which are important components in the production of bricks, are also mined.

Coal mining in the territories of the Republic of Uzbekistan is carried out today by "Uzbekcoal" JSC. "Uzbekcoal" JSC includes the following enterprises:

- ✓ "Angren razrez" - by open mining method;
- ✓ "Apartak razrez" - by open mining method;
- ✓ Branch of "Department of Underground Coal Mining" - by underground mining method;
- ✓ Branch "Mine-technological equipment repair plant" (MTERP) - repair and maintenance works;
- ✓ "Komirkonqurilish" - construction and assembly works;
- ✓ "Komirenergetika" branch - energy works;
- ✓ "Geology-research expedition" (GRE) branch - geological exploration works;
- ✓ "Alokakomir" branch - telecommunication and communication works;
- ✓ "Belazkomir" branch - works of providing technological transport;
- ✓ "Railway Transport Management" branch (RTM) - railway and communication works;
- ✓ "Komirtaminotservis" branch - material, technical and supply works;
- ✓ "Capital Construction Department" branch - capital investment and construction works;
- ✓ "Social management" branch carries out work related to the social sphere.

"Uzbekcoal" joint-stock company produces lignite from the Angren mine as follows:

- ✓ in the branches "Angren razrez" and "Apartak razrez" in an open way;
- ✓ carried out by mining in the branch of the "Department of Underground Coal Mining".

Also included in "Uzbekcoal" JSC:

- "Shargunkomir" JSC extracts coal in the Shargun and Boysun mines in the territory of our republic by partially reproducing it by means of underground mining for turning it into coal briquettes in the Shargun and Boysun briquette factories;
- "Erostigaz" JSC carries out mining and processing of lignite in the city of Angren using the underground gasification method at the Angren mine.

On January 15, 2024, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is in the process of familiarizing himself with the presentation of the work done in the field of geology and future plans.²

Geology is of strategic importance in providing resources to the growing economy of our country. In recent years, funds of 1 trillion sums per year have been allocated to this sector, and necessary conditions are being created. As a result, 31 thousand square kilometers of new territories were

² <https://president.uz/uz/lists/view/6970>

explored.

Investors were attracted to the mines in exchange for the opportunities created for the private sector. Today, investment projects worth 1 billion 700 million dollars are being implemented in the industry.

But there are many untapped opportunities in the field. Mines and their development can be expanded.

In the presentation, information was given about promising projects in this regard, in particular, plans for this year.

The head of our country listened to that and defined the tasks that should be implemented in the near and long term. The importance of foresight and being ahead of the times in this area was emphasized.

Therefore, the measures to take the finish line, expand the geological research work, and effectively utilize the identified reserves were discussed.

The tasks were set to further attract foreign technologies and investments to the field, thereby increasing the productivity of geological exploration and mining, were set.

Based on the needs of the population, social sphere and industrial sectors, the need to increase the volume of coal production by 22% was mentioned.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev set the task of continuing to attract foreign technologies and investments to the sector, thereby increasing the productivity of geological exploration and mining.³

For the further sustainable and balanced development of coal industry enterprises in the republic, ahead of the implementation of innovative and investment projects, increasing the production and supply of coal and coal products, taking into account the demand for the needs of economic sectors, the social sphere and the population predicted in recent years, the priority tasks are:

- modernization, technical and technological re-equipment of coal industry enterprises, the introduction of new equipment and modern information and communication technologies, as well as its balanced development;
- modernization and diversification of the coal industry in the medium and long term through the use of modern high-performance machinery and equipment;
- expanding the raw material base of the coal industry by involving new deposits in the development, including the introduction of underground coal mining;
- increase in the volume of coal production simultaneously with the volume of mining operations with unconditional compliance with industrial safety requirements during mining operations;
- rational use of raw material base of coal industry and extracted minerals;
- radical improvement of the system of delivery and sale of coal products to economic sectors, social institutions and the population of the republic, providing for full satisfaction of needs in the autumn-winter period;
- introduction of modern technologies and equipment for determining the quality of coal products, as well as information and communication technologies that allow conducting surveys to study in real time the needs of the population for solid fuel and its quality;
- strengthening the human resources of coal industry enterprises, including training, retraining and advanced training of personnel, implementation of large-scale tasks for the further

³ <https://president.uz/uz/lists/view/6970>

development of the coal industry;

- increasing production capacities, improving personnel skills, improving scientific and innovative potential through innovative activities at coal mining enterprises;
- diversification of coal mining and processing based on innovative technologies as a result of the introduction of new coal deposits in the industry
- updating (replacement) of modern and physically outdated equipment, support of production capacities of “Uzbekcoal” JSC.

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