

To Mr. Stanislav Stankov
Director of Directorate
“Natural resources, concessions and control” in
The Ministry of Energy

Copy to Mrs. Temenuzhka Petkova
Minister of Energy

To you outgoing №E-26-E-275/30.05.2017

Dear Mr. Stankov,

ICGB AD received your letter requesting an opinion on the change of the geometric dimensions of a safety pillar, prescribed at an earlier stage of the procedure for extraction of underground natural resources within the Ralitsa deposit, on the land of Sedlovina Village, Kardzhali Municipality. The safety pillar is a trapezoidal structure with bases 30 m and 254 m and a 25° slope, guaranteeing the long-term strength of the earth masses on which to build the IGB gas pipeline route in the area passing through Section 1 and Section 2 of the Ralitsa deposit.

Your above-mentioned letter proposes to drop the fixed length of the lower base of the pillar, keeping the upper base at 30 m and the 25° slope, thus maintaining the stability of the earth masses at bigger pillar height.

In this connection, ICGB AD does not object to the changes in the length of the lower base and the height of the pillar with trapezoid shape, under the following conditions:

- The upper base of the safety pillar should remain 30 m wide;
- The pillar slope shall be not more than 25°;

- In the concession contract, a requirement shall be included that before starting the extraction, the concessioner shall submit to ICGB AD a project of the pillar, made by a qualified designer. The project, at a minimum, should study the geological structure of the terrain, prescribe the length of the lower base, the height and degree of the safety pillar angle slope – at a fixed top, ensuring the stability of the safety pillar during the extraction within the Ralitsa deposit, and the particularities to be taken into account in the construction and operation of the IGB gas pipeline.

Respectfully yours,

Executive Director

Teodora Dimitrova Georgieva-Mileva