

MUGA Spain

The social focus as a cornerstone for success in the MUGA project

2014 - Ongoing Countries covered: Spain

Summary:

Geocalci is a Spanish company dedicated to the exploration, development and operation of potash mines in Spain. The Company's attitude towards external stakeholders and Social Responsibility can be summarized by the moto "CREA" Commitment, Respect, Excellence, Attitude. Possibly the most significant action undertaken was the voluntarily Public Participation Process



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Jornada de puertas abiertas de la Mina Muga

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El análisis de impacto de la Mina Muga “será técnico y riguroso”

La empresa vasca, filial de la australiana Highfield Resources, que opera en bolsa, creará 800 puestos de trabajo. La cuenca del Ebro es un yacimiento rico en este mineral, que se utiliza como fertilizante.

KIKI

Una inversión de 400 millones de euros y 800 puestos de trabajo. Así es el ambicioso proyecto de la Mina Muga, ubicada en los límites de Sangüesa y Aragón, de la empresa vasca, filial de la australiana Highfield Resources, que opera en bolsa, creará 800 puestos de trabajo. La cuenca del Ebro es un yacimiento rico en este mineral, que se utiliza como fertilizante.



alerta de un "gran impacto medioambiental" que "será una vez más un desafío para el municipio del Pirineo".

KIKI

En la pregunta del millón: ¿cómo se controlará y operará la mina? Tanto es así que ayer, uno de los puntos más importantes de la jornada de puertas abiertas de la mina, estuvo dedicado al programa de creación de la mina. Actuadamente, se encuentra paralizado en los trabajos legales.

La de ayer fue una jornada de puertas abiertas de presentación de datos y sectores de la mina, una puesta en escena que quiere reflejar el carácter sostenible y de respeto con el entorno social y medioambiental. Pero en sus márgenes voces en contra. Ecológicas en acción se han alertado del "gran impacto medioambiental" que supone a varias millas del Pirineo.

Desde Geocalci, se insiste en que la mina es generadora de actividad, un proyecto beneficioso en la mejora de la explotación de terrenos agrícolas.

¡Hay tantos potash en su nave del Polígono Industrial!



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Ayuntamiento de Llérida
Hoy se ha celebrado desde las 11 hasta las 6 de la tarde una jornada de puertas abiertas de la empresa Geocalci. A las 13:00 h. Nos han convocado a los alcaldes y concejales de la comarca para explicarnos los proyectos de la extracción, las expectativas y conceptos de la refundición, las expectativas y conceptos de la extracción, las expectativas y conceptos de la refundición con las modificaciones futuras y el texto de las alegaciones para mejorar el proyecto al impacto medioambiental.

Description:

Geocalci is undertaking the development of the Muga Mine potash project, located in the northern region of Spain. Since its inception, one of the Company's key strategic activities has been its commitment to transparent, two-way, continuous and open, communication with local communities.

The communication strategy has a number of streams, such as presentations, face-to-face discussions, group meetings, one-on-one meetings, engagement in local social activities, provision of various materials about the mine, working sessions with mayors, engagement with schools in the neighboring towns, Open Days for local community, and, very significantly, a formal Public Participation Process. These activities will continue in the future, so as to ensure engagement and to build mutual trust with local key stakeholders in a transparent and open fashion. The Company understands and believes that there is no more important strategic goal than the maintenance and nurturing of the Social Licence to Operate.

In the list of activities described above, possibly the most significant action undertaken was the voluntarily Public Participation Process, which included:

- Information sessions with the community (12), more than 1,500 people have attended the public sessions.
- Survey of a statistically significant 8% of local residents. (Official public statistics typically have participation rates of 0.05%)
- Survey of key stakeholder groups, including those that may have voiced concerns about the project.

- Discussion sessions with the residents coordinated by an external party, with the objective of collecting suggestions and understanding any concerns. All recommendations from these sessions were addressed by the Company.

- The Company committed publicly to 23 Commitments to the community, including an action plan with several initiatives that are monitored and publicly available on Geocali's website.

- Placement of suggestion boxes in the community to maintain active offline communication channels.

This Process has no precedent in the sector.

Geocali is also active with regular updates to society via the media and participates in information events to raise awareness on the importance of "raw materials and mining with principles".

“To build a successful, sustainable, potash business with respect for stakeholders and the environment”

Communications and CSR Manager

Susana Bieberach

Good practice areas:

Social responsibility

involving the community and their engagement for creating a social licence to operate

Organisations involved:

Geocali

<https://www.geocali.com/>

Innovation category:

Organisational

Impact on the mining value chain

Exploration

- reduced environmental impact

Extraction

- increased environmental performance

Processing

- increased environmental performance

Mine closure / Waste

- mine site reclamation/rehabilitation for subsequent uses

Linked policies

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Raw Materials

The European Commission is concerned about the public image of the mining sector

Restoration of Areas Affected by Mining Activities-1724

In the particular case of Spain, the 1985 decree of restoration of mining areas has had an important impact. This decree is also very advanced, since mining was the first industry to deal with aspects of restoration. The public perception in Spain that the mines are abandoned and an orphan landscape remains. However, this does not correspond to reality. It is true that in Spain there are a lot of abandoned mining areas (some that are already heritage sites), but they tend to correspond to mines prior to this decree. Society tends to associate modern mines with old and unsustainable exploitations. It is important that the population know how modern mines are operated and that legal instruments force the mine operators to remediate land after 30 years of use. In a way, this perception and process of restoration legislation is transferable to all the countries of Europe with respect to specific country contexts.

Transferability:

SLO concept should be incorporated in business model and culture. It is key to have proactive communication from the beginning towards all stakeholders, in order to build trust. Educational processes are important for society to raise its awareness for where resources come from.

Innovation drivers and barriers

Drivers:

Other

Social skills. it is necessary to incorporate soft skills to the mining design teams and to the engineers and geologists so that they know how to explain the projects well to society

Barriers:

Other

NIMBY. Not In My Backyard. There is an important sector of society that is against mining, so it is important to raise awareness

Impact Area

Area:

Human/Social, Public participation