

Soil Contamination Problem in Montana, USA

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Along with the growth of industrialization, the adverse impacts on industrial waste is particularly important in the environment, especially on water and soil where the heavy metals are accumulated. These problems do not exist only in Georgia, for example in Montana state, USA, still trying to eradicate damages caused by the industrial production. Mining production in Montana started in 1864. The 4915 mine is considered abandoned in this state and 1128 is now active. Anaconda Copper Mine, Butte, Montana, USA started operation in 1884, its functioning continued until 1980, and the reclamation began in 1988 and still remains, however, the damage could still be eradicated. During the internship at Montana State University in 2016, we conducted an expedition to Anaconda mine, took samples of soils and made their determination at the Atomic Absorption Spectrometer. Surveyed soil analyzes showed high numbers of heavy metals. Although the mine has been reclaimed almost three decades now, the heavy metal from soils could not be cleaned yet. However, the organization (EPA, United States Environmental Protection Agency), which is responsible for the reclamation of the quarry, is actively trying to plant such plants which are able to absorb heavy metals from the soil. They also regularly clean the water accumulated in the drainage system. Every year EPA spends 20 million dollars for anaconda mine territory reclamation. Thus, the objective of this theme is to demonstrate the situation in Montana State in terms of environmental pollution and that the problem is not only relevant in Georgia, but, the latter does not pay much attention to elimination or even mitigation of environmental damage.