

**Belgrade, August 10, 2021**

## **FIRE OUTBREAK AT VINČA LANDFILL COMPLEX 44-YEAR EXISTING WASTE DUMP ON FIRE**

Large fire outbreak at old waste dump in the old, existing landfill in Vinča and quickly spread over the area of 5 hectares on Saturday evening (07/08/2021) around 8.30 pm.

Beo Čista Energija acted quickly to mobilize Belgrade's fire brigades and arranged needed resources of Beo Čista Energija, PUC "Gradska čistoća", PUC "Beogradski vodovod i kanalizacija", Suez Vinča Operator, as well as company Nukleus, which is carrying out part of construction works, to support fire brigades to suppress the fire as quick as possible.

Fire was successfully localized and suppressed by Sunday (08/08/2021) evening after fire brigades crews continued to manage spreading of fire on adjacent land while soil is dumped over the fire area.

Unfortunately, smoke which flowed good part of the city of Belgrade had caused increased air pollution for the short period of time but air quality returned to average levels right after fire was suppressed.

Police investigation of the cause of the fire is also underway besides the fact that extreme weather conditions may have triggered the fire. Fires at non-sanitary landfills like this one in Vinča are unfortunately prone to happen due to the presence of highly flammable landfill gases and biodegradation of waste.

And this is exactly one of the main issues for the City of Belgrade and Beo Čista Energija to solve through this PPP project.

Since August 2, 2021, Beo Čista Energija is treating and managing municipal waste in the new sanitary landfill next to old existing landfill, which stopped additional pollution and fire from newly produced waste from the City of Belgrade. Fire at the old existing landfill did not obstruct treatment and disposal services Beo Čista Energija is extending to the City of Belgrade under the PPP Contract. PUC Gradska čistoća is still responsible for receiving and disposal of inert and CDW waste and management of the old, existing, landfill.

Beo Čista Energija had a major role in aiding to suppressing the fire and its localization in the shortest possible time, even this part of Vinca landfill complex is not yet handed over to Beo Čista Energija for rehabilitation and closing, which will prevent further environmental pollution and danger to human health, i.e., air pollution caused by landfill gas emissions into the air, the outbreak of fires at the landfill and the emission of unpleasant odors resulting from deep-seated fires.

Considering complex situation due to accumulated untreated mixed waste more than 40 years, Step-by-step approach is taken and it's progressing to solve all issue. With Start of new sanitary landfill operation, next step is rehabilitation and closing this existing landfill as soon as possible along with progress of construction work of Energy from Waste Facility to start producing electricity and heat from the Waste as a substitute of fossil fuel.

Beo Čista Energija as a private partner of the City of Belgrade is committed to delivering best available solution for citizens, society and environment.