

ENGLISH SUMMARY

Coal mining is an important activity which significantly contributes to the economy of the Czech Republic. Coal is currently still indispensable material for many industrial branches, but coal mining has serious and wide-ranging consequences for the environment.

Coal mining influences negatively especially the appearance of landscape, the soil conditions and the water system in the affected area. It causes air pollution and it leads to the destruction of fauna and flora, too. Furthermore the problem is that coal is a non-renewable material, which will eventually be exhausted. Due to these negative impacts on environment and the importance of coal as the source of energy, the coal mining requires state regulation.

Legislation regulation of mining activity in our country can be found in these three acts: The Mining Act No. 44/1988 Coll., The Act of Mining Activity No. 61/1988 Coll. and The Act of Geological Works No. 62/1988 Coll. These three acts are supplemented with number of subsidiary regulations.

This thesis attempts to describe and analyze basic legal instruments of environmental protection, which are exercised in mining. The main sources for this thesis are the three above-mentioned Acts and Acts regulating particular elements of environment for example the Water Code, the Forest Code and the Nature Protection Act. This thesis also deals with general instruments relevant to the environment protection such as accountability, the Environmental impact Assessment and resolving conflicts of interests.

This thesis is divided into six main chapters. The first chapter talks about coal mining in our country and the second chapter introduces the basic institutes and definitions of the mining law. The third chapter describes the consequences of coal mining on the environment and its protection. The fourth chapter of this thesis examines activities, which are important to the mining law and where specific legal instruments for environment protection are invoked. These activities include the survey of mining area, the preparation of mining, the mining itself and the recultivation. The fifth chapter deals with the economical instruments of the environment protection and chapter Nr. six describes general concepts relevant to the environment protection.

The main aim of this thesis is to present and to analyze legal instruments that can help to minimize the environmental impact of coal mining. These instruments are embodied in three basic Acts of the mining law. Regulations of the mining law are not very transparent and clear because they are laid down by three different acts, which were accepted almost twenty

years ago during different political and social situation. We can say that many regulations of the mining law are obsolete and it is desirable to modernize some of them and to adjust them to current conditions.