

**QUALITY OF SURFACE WATER IN THE  
KRIVA RIVER CATCHMENT**

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**ABSTRACT**

With increased multi-purpose utilization of ground waters in the Kriva River catchments, subsequently were created conditions for following water pollution. There are several potential pollutants of surface waters: settlements with domestic people, active business objects, waste dumpsites, and significant mechanical pollution from soil erosion processes in the catchments. In this work, shortly are presented all mentioned aspects, as well as recommendation for lowering of pollution which is inappropriate to the present economic growth in the region.

The river Kriva Reka is the longest tributary of the river Pcinja, the most important river in the south-eastern part of the Republic of Macedonia. The river Pcinja goes through the Slaviska basin and the western part of the Kumanovo basin. This area is not densely populated, however, the towns Kriva Palanka and Kratovo and the larger urban districts (Rankovce, Ginovce) could condition a significant pollution rate of river waters. The privatisation decreases the number of the existing industrial capacities. However, even though the factories work with a lower intensity (or went bankrupt with the possibility to be restarted), these enterprises still represent potential polluters of the river waters. None of the waste dumps along the river fulfills the standards according to the existing law regulation. Almost in all rural districts along the river Kriva Reka has recently appeared the problem of “wild” waste landfills, usually thrown away in the close environment and in the river-beds of streams and rivers. The mechanical water pollution of the river Kriva Reka is particularly significant in the areas of the rivers: Kratovska Reka, Rankovacka Reka, Opilski Potok, Povisnica, Lazinska Reka, Vrlejš, etc. Under basis of the comparative analysis of river waters’ quality, certain improvement of organoleptic indicators and metals can be pointed out, compared with the 1996 analysis. However, the oxygen regime indicators, the total suspended substances and the fecal pollution indicators remain with the same values or raise.

**Key words:** environment, degradation, waste dumpsites

**With:** 1 figure, 3 tables and 1 map