

Past meets present

Green Gas DPB is proud to house a national treasure...

By Antonin Kunz

Ostrava region of the Czech Republic – Green Gas DPB uses a former ventilation shaft at the Vrbice site as a degasification unit for coal mine gas drainage and to house a CHP plant generating some 4,500 MWh per annum of clean electricity.

It is here that the past meets the present. These premises not only hold the modern CHP and drainage equipment, but also accommodate a national treasure, from one of the most remarkable and historic coal mines in the country. The machine room was built in 1919, a building with a mine tower dates from 1930, and a vintage electrical reciprocating compressor with mine winder brings history to life. All have been recognised as a Czech national treasures awaiting UNESCO recognition.



Past meets present – The Vrbice ventilation shaft and a CHP unit

Excavated in 1911, the ventilation shaft was used by local coal mines until 1990 when it was closed down. The property was then bought by Green Gas DPB in 1992, and the following year the premises of the ventilation shaft were declared a national treasure by the Czech Ministry for Culture.

One of the most striking features is undoubtedly the vintage electrical reciprocating compressor constructed by Skoda during the last century. At an output of 545kW and 121rpm the compressor produced around 6,600 m³/hour of compressed air until 1993, when it was closed down.

Although the maintenance of this national treasure is required by law, Green Gas DPB takes its responsibility very seriously. In addition to receiving some grants from the Czech Government, Green Gas DPB invests considerable sums of its own money and resources into the conservation of such a remarkable inheritance.



An electrical reciprocating compressor – A Czech national treasure