

# Złoczew for Bełchatów

The Minister of the Environment has upheld his decision to grant the PGE Bełchatów Lignite Mine a licence to examine and explore the Złoczew lignite deposit.

A decision issued by the Minister of the Environment on 18 October 2010 upheld the validity of licence no. 32/2010/p of 30 June 2010 granted to the PGE Bełchatów Lignite Mine for the performance of exploratory and research work on the Złoczew lignite field.

In a justification for his decision, the Minister of the Environment states that it is in the public interest to grant the licence to PGE KWB Bełchatów S.A. (now PGE Górnictwo i Energetyka Konwencjonalna S.A. – Bełchatów Lignite Mine Branch) because the application submitted by the Bełchatów Lignite Mine provides for a more thorough geological exploration to be performed on a larger area and within a shorter period of time.

The Złoczew deposit is included as a prospective source of lignite in a draft Concept of the Country's Special Development Plan until 2033. The field is located near the town of Wieluń in the north-western part of the Łódzkie Province, about 50 km in a straight line from the Bełchatów Lignite Mine and Power Plant.

It is located under a narrow (1000-1500 m) strip of land stretching for about 10 km (through the four communes of Złoczew, Burzenin, Ostrówek and Lututów). The average thickness of the deposit equals about 46 m, while the thickness of the cover - 213 m. Estimated at 450 m tons of lignite, the Złoczew field will extend the operating period of the Bełchatów lignite mining and power generation complex until 2050.