



Camisea not to cause mercury contamination

Lima, January, 2018.- Following the information released in the media on mercury contamination among Nahua people in Santa Rosa de Serjali, the Camisea Consortium rules out any possibility that gas exploitation activities could cause mercury contamination, neither in the population nor in the environment, since mercury is neither used in any of its production processes, nor are mercury emissions generated.

Since the Camisea project started its operations, all gas production processes have been supervised by the Government inspection institutions. In addition, all operations in the sphere of influence of the project are subject to strict permanent monitoring systems by the communities themselves, which autonomously, through the Community Environmental Monitoring Program (PMAC in Spanish), monitor compliance with Camisea's socio-environmental commitments to prevent any impact on the communities or the ecosystem. In addition, for more than 10 years, the Biodiversity Monitoring Program (PMB in Spanish) in Lower Urubamba has been continuously monitoring and evaluating the state of biodiversity in the project area of influence and shows almost no negative impact.

Regarding the information included in the document "Análisis de Situación de Salud del Pueblo Nahua de Santa Rosa de Serjali en la reserva Territorial Kugapakori Nahua Nanti y Otros", published in 2017, the following is reported:

"The presence of mercury in the gas extracted from the Camisea project has been confirmed since the design of the Malvinas plant includes the installation of a mercury removal tower, as it is stated in Pluspetrol's EIA."

It is important to mention that what is referred to as a "tower" is actually a mercury removal vessel, which is part of the good design practices and international regulations in world-class gas processing facilities. This vessel is installed to prevent any trace of mercury from being liberated, which would seriously jeopardize the functioning of critical refrigeration equipment, built with metal alloys which are very sensitive to mercury. It also prevents the liberation of any traces of mercury into the environment.

The levels of traces of mercury filtered and retained by the removal vessel installed in the Malvinas processing plant are measured in nano grams per cubic meter (A nanogram is equivalent to 0.000000001 gram or 1e-9) *, which are well below the maximum limits allowed by international gas quality specifications.

Even in the worst case scenario, that traces of mercury could be liberated, under any circumstances could explain the levels of mercury contamination reported in the Nahua people, who are located 59 km away from the Malvinas Plant.

"To date, it has not been possible to access neither reports from the General Directorate of Environmental Energy Affairs or the OEFA regarding monitoring activities of the removal tower of the main operations camp of the Camisea gas project in Malvinas, Urubamba river, nor information on the levels of the mercury captured, which could contribute to define the efficiency of the method that prevents this metal from entering atmosphere100".

From the beginning of its operations, the Camisea Consortium rigorously complies with the remittance of the Environmental Monitoring Reports to the General Directorate of Environmental Energy Affairs and to the OEFA (Peruvian Environmental authority), according to the current Legislation.

It is important to highlight the information quoted in the Minister of Health report which states that mercury contamination in the area is caused by artisanal gold mining activity, as it is stated in the section "2.9.5 Potential sources of mercury exposure in Santa Rosa de Serjali ", on page 107 of the aforementioned document:

"Several studies have shown that in the Peruvian Amazon, mercury contamination is associated with mining activities, particularly artisanal gold mining activities."

Since 2015, when the first cases of contamination among the Nahua in Santa Rosa de Serjali were reported, the Camisea Consortium has expressed to the competent authorities its concern about the health situation of the Nahua people, suggesting to use part of the US\$ 5,000,000 fund, which was allocated by the Camisea Consortium to meet the health needs of the people of the Kungapakori Nahua Nanti Territorial Reserve (RTKNN), to tackle that problem.

The Camisea Consortium, as well as the authorities and civil society, are aware of the serious situation affecting not only the mentioned area, but other areas of the Peruvian Amazon, which are severely exposed and affected by the indiscriminate presence of illegal activities causing high levels of contamination.

Finally, the Consortium reiterates its willingness to continue providing the competent authorities with all the information required to verify the environmental standards of the Camisea operations.