

## HISTORY OF THE NAVOI MINING AND METALLURGICAL COMBINE

Kholmamat Raupov

Candidate Of Historical Sciences Director Of Public Relations Of The Navoi Mining And Metallurgical Combine Joint Stock Company, Uzbekistan

**ABSTRACT:** The Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Combine were created on the territory of Uchkuduk for the purpose of mining and processing uranium ore. By Decree of the Soviet Government No. 206-99 of February 20, 1958, the Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Combine was created (until January 1, 1967, the enterprise was called Combine No. 2 of the Ministry of Medium Machine Building of the USSR)[1]. The annual production capacity of the plant was determined to produce 1,600 thousand tons of ore and the task was set to obtain 1,560 tons of products from it, that is, uranium semioxide[1. p23].

**KEYWORDS:** Muruntau mine, Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Plant, Gorstroyproekt-14, uranium mining.

### INTRODUCTION

By order of the Ministry of Medium Machine Building No. 0457 dated August 4, 1957, Zarap Zarapetyan[1. p.3] was appointed director of the newly created enterprise, and in 1960 Anton Shchepetkov was appointed chief engineer of the [2]. Since the plant was engaged in uranium mining, its activities were classified.

By Order of the Ministry No. 1072 of August 5, 1960, the main project for the construction of housing and cultural and community facilities for workers and employees of the plant was approved. Also, at the Gorstroyproekt-14 Institute in Moscow, the main project of the first stage of construction of the city of Navoi was approved and design work of the second stage began. In accordance with the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR No. 775-63 dated October 13, 1959, the population of the city of Navoi was determined in the first stage at 50,000 people, in the second - at 70,000 people[1. inventory 1-5, file 1435, p.4].

By order of the Council of Ministers of the USSR No. 1652 of June 16, 1959 and by order of the Ministry of Medium Engineering No. 0329 of July 7, 1959, the ministry was instructed to build a chemical plant, a cement plant and a hydroelectric power station (HRPS) in the city of Navoi with a capacity of 650 thousand kilowatts [1]. In 1961, the Navoi-Uchkuduk railway with a length of 300 km was built on this territory, and in 1963 a power transmission line with a length of 320 kilometers was installed [3].

By Decree of the Government of Uzbekistan No. 343 dated September 10, 1959, Uchkuduk was given the status of an urban-type settlement. In 1960-61, a railway was built to Uchkuduk for the transportation of goods and the movement of passenger trains. Representatives of different nationalities worked bravely on the construction of the city, who were among the first to arrive to conquer Kyzylkum.

To extract ore, miners widely used open pit and shaft methods. As a result, 14 mines were put into operation to implement eleven quarry and underground mine workings. In 1962, the Uchkuduk geotechnological mine was created.

## THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The Muruntau mine, located in the Kyzylkum desert, is today recognized as the deposit where the most gold is mined in the world [4]. The Muruntau mine is the largest mine not only in Central Kyzylkum, but throughout the world, which is located 180 km. north of the city of Navoi, 40 km. east of the city of Zarafshan, in the southern foothills of Tamdytau[5]. In terms of gold reserves, the mine is recognized as a miracle of the 20th century. The mine was recognized as the “Miracle of the Century” due to the abundance of gold reserves and the simplicity of the technological conditions for ore extraction.

In 1964, work began at the Muruntau gold deposit to create a network for the extraction and processing of gold ore. According to the resolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the government of the USSR No. 737303 dated August 29, 1964 “On the development of the Muruntau gold deposit,” the Ministry of Medium Engineering was entrusted with entrusting the Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Combine with the development of the mine and building a hydrometallurgical plant processing 5 million. tons of ore per year, carry out 40 km. railway, lay 220 km from the Amu Darya water pipes and construction of a town for miners [6]. On the development of the mine, a resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR No. 440-176 of May 25, 1964 was also adopted [1. 41].

Despite the natural vagaries of Kyzylkum, construction work soon began here. First of all, in 1965-1966, a base was formed for the construction of the Muruntau ore mining complex. In particular, a 70 km long power line was extended to the village of Zarafshan, and 56 km was laid to the mine. railway, 65 km from Tomdi to Zarafshan are temporarily connected. water pipes.

Construction of the city of Zarafshan began; in 1964, 13 thousand m<sup>2</sup> of housing and a school for 1,300 students were opened in the city [1. p. 41]. A road and a route for air transport were opened, which connected the city of Zarafshan with cities such as Tashkent, Samarkand, Navoi, Uchkuduk. It was possible to fly from Zarafshan airport to Tashkent and Navoi on AN-24 and Yak-40 aircraft [1. p. 27].

Thanks to the dedicated work of thousands of workers, engineers, scientists and managers, the Kyzylkum desert was developed. Kyzylkum has become a truly beautiful place, cities with modern infrastructure have been built. In 1965, the first houses for miners were put into operation in Zarafshan. By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Uzbek SSR dated July 20, 1972, Zarafshan was given the status of a city[7].

It was necessary to build a plant that would process gold-bearing ores mined at the Muruntau mine. In 1967, based on the project of Academician B.N. Laskori, construction began on the 2nd hydrometallurgical plant. The first stage of the plant was put into operation in 1969. Since 1970, processing reached the full project target, which was equal to 5 million tons of gold ore. Pure gold was first obtained on June 21, 1969. On July 21, 1969, a historical event occurred - for the first time, an ingot of pure gold weighing 11 kilograms 820 grams was found at the Muruntau gold mine [8]. A great contribution to the formation of NMMC and the organization of work on the development of the Muruntau mine was made by the ancestral son of our people, the famous state and public figure Sharof Rashidov. During his tenure as first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan from 1959 to 1983, Sharof Rashidov gained great authority thanks to his unique intellect, rich knowledge and experience, as well as high human qualities. The development of the mining and metallurgical industry in Uzbekistan and projects related to gold mining in Kyzylkum are directly associated with his name [9].

## CONCLUSION

In the very heart of Kyzylkum, cities such as Navoi, Zarafshan, Uchkuduk were built, and the world-famous Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Plant was put into operation. Uzbekistan has become one of the leading producers of gold and uranium in the USSR[10].

## REFERENCES

1. Central archive of the Navoi MMC, fund 1, inventories 1-2, file 240, sheet 1.
2. Directors of the enterprise: Zarap Zarapetyan (1958-1971), Anatoly Petrov (1971-1985), Nikolay Kuchersky (1985-2008), Kuvondik Sanakulov (since June 2008).
3. Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Combine. History of creation and development...323 p.
4. Vladimir Basov. The world's top 10 largest gold mines in 2021 – report. [www.kitco.com/news/2022-04-22/The-world-s-top-10-largest-gold-mines-in-2021-report.html](http://www.kitco.com/news/2022-04-22/The-world-s-top-10-largest-gold-mines-in-2021-report.html).
5. Antonov A.E. Ultra-large gold deposits of Russia and Uzbekistan: prospects for new discoveries. // Gold and technology. 2020. No. 4. pp. 30–38.
6. History of uranium mining. Author and compiler: N. Petrukhin. -Moscow. –2020,-. 185 p.
7. Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Combine. History of creation and development, - p.302.
8. Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Combine is the pride of the country. -Tashkent: East; 2011.- p.20-21.
9. Rizaev S. Sharaf Rashidov. Portrait drawings.-Tashkent: Sharq, 2021, 296 p.
10. History of Uzbekistan (1917-1991). K. 2. Uzbekistan in 1939-1991. Responsible editors: R. Abdullaev, M. Rahimov, Q. Rajabov. - Tashkent: NMIU “Uzbekistan”, 2019. - p. 116.