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Sustaining Ukraine's Energy: An Inside Look at DTEK Mining Operations



A new [exclusive report](#) by leading Ukrainian media NV provides a comprehensive look at the daily operations of coal miners at our energy company [DTEK](#). Due to essential security considerations, this visit required months of planning to schedule,

but the resulting article delivers an important perspective on the individuals securing the energy independence of Ukraine.

The geography of our coal extraction has shifted significantly. Following the loss of assets to occupation since 2014 and the recent suspension of the final operational mine in the Donetsk region, DTEK mining activities are now fully concentrated in the Dnipropetrovsk region. Although this area faces regular attacks due to the ongoing war launched by Russia, the mines have not ceased operations for a single day. DTEK employees keep the lights on in Ukraine in two vital ways: by bravely repairing electrical lines above ground and by continuously mining coal hundreds of metres underground.

The NV report details the rigorous safety protocols required in these high-risk environments, where miners work at depths exceeding 300 metres. It also dispels outdated stereotypes about the mining profession. Today, the workforce is highly diverse. With a significant number of male employees mobilised to defend the country, women have stepped forward to fill critical underground roles. In one mine administration alone, over one hundred women are currently operating underground machinery and managing logistics, contributing directly to the stability of the national energy grid.

Equally important is the focus on veteran rehabilitation and employment. As soldiers return from the war, SCM companies are implementing structured programmes to ensure their successful reintegration into the workforce. The article features the story of a veteran who returned to work at the mine after losing a limb in combat. By offering administrative roles, establishing barrier-free environments, and developing adaptive workwear, DTEK ensures that returning defenders have stable employment, a supportive community, and a clear sense of purpose.

The resilience of the miners, from former teachers to returning veterans, highlights a profound dedication to the country. We are grateful to the NV editorial team for documenting this vital work and shedding light on the immense efforts required to maintain energy stability during these challenging times.