## Kovohutě Mníšek – Ironworks in Mníšek pod Brdy

"Kovohutě Mníšek" existed as an iron ore mine already in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1951, three furnaces were supposed to be built there. The construction started with the extension of the iron mine in Mníšek pod Brdy and the construction of a railway siding.

The mine of Mníšek is located on a hill, the furnaces were supposed to be built considerably lower. For this reason there was over a kilometre long tunnel built from the mine – it was a mining pit connecting the 16<sup>th</sup> floor of the mine with the future furnace. Later it was indeed constructed and an industrial site was built on the spot in the 1960s. In 1966 mining in Mníšek was finished, but the industrial area has been functioning up to now. The waste from the furnaces was exported to a nearby sludge bed, which is a huge ecological burden for the town of Mníšek nowadays. At the time of privatization, this environmental burden was not included in the privatization project by the former management, and therefore the current owners struggle to find financial resources to revitalize this area.

Since 1989 the complex of "Kovohutě Mníšek" has belonged to several owners. The major part is currently owned by KOVOHUTĚ HOLDING DT, a.s.

Nowadays, the industrial halls are rented to companies such as KOVOCHEM, KOVOBRASIV and Nikom a.s. EVRAZ dealing with ferroalloy and corundum, which resembles the original focus of Kovohutě (ironworks) the most.





