

This invention relates to methods for controlling an airlift plants designed for extracting mineral resources from the sea and ocean bottoms, and can be used in design and operation of airlift plants. According to the optimal method, the mix flow rate at the upper part of the lifting pipe is preliminarily specified and controlled, the mix flow rate is increased by compressed air supplied from a compressor into the upper part of the lifting pipe, then the mix flow is terminated, and the upper part of the lifting pipe is connected with atmosphere, with the subsequent shutting down the compressor. The connection of the lifting pipe with atmosphere is terminated before the start of the extraction process, and resumed after the completion of supplying compressed air. The airlift unit is equipped with a relief valve that is installed directly before the point of connection of an additional pipeline containing a controlled damper, and a sucking pipe connected with atmosphere and containing a controlled damper located at the lower cross section of the sucking pipe. The proposed invention allows increasing the range of pulp lifting heights by reducing pressure in the mixer in the event of stopping an airlift plant, In addition, there is a possibility to start an airlift plant directly onto a deep submerged mixer without intermediate mixers.