

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction to Mine Wastes</b>	1
1.1	Scope of the Book	1
1.2	Definitions	3
1.2.1	Mining Activities	3
1.2.2	Metals, Ores and Industrial Minerals	3
1.2.3	Mine Wastes	4
1.3	Mine Waste Production	9
1.4	Mine Wastes: Unwanted By-Products or Valuable Resources?	12
1.5	Mining and Environmental Impacts	15
1.5.1	Contamination and Pollution	21
1.5.2	Historic Mining	22
1.5.3	Present-Day Unregulated Mining	28
1.5.4	Regulation of Modern Mining	31
1.6	Rehabilitation of Mine Wastes and Mine Sites	33
1.7	Sources of Information	38
1.8	Summary	40
<b>2</b>	<b>Sulfidic Mine Wastes</b>	43
2.1	Introduction	43
2.2	Weathering of Sulfidic Mine Wastes	45
2.3	Acid Producing Reactions	46
2.3.1	Pyrite	46
2.3.2	Other Sulfides	57
2.3.3	Other Minerals	59
2.4	Acid Buffering Reactions	60
2.4.1	Silicates	61
2.4.2	Carbonates	63
2.4.3	Exchangeable Cations	64
2.4.4	Reaction Rates	64
2.5	Coal Mine Wastes	66
2.5.1	Spontaneous Combustion of Pyritic Wastes	68



2.6	Formation and Dissolution of Secondary Minerals . . . . .	70
2.6.1	Pre-mining and Post-mining Secondary Minerals . . . . .	70
2.6.2	Solubility of Secondary Minerals . . . . .	76
2.6.3	Acid Consumption and Production . . . . .	77
2.6.4	Coatings and Hardpans . . . . .	78
2.7	Acid Generation Prediction . . . . .	80
2.7.1	Geological Modeling . . . . .	80
2.7.2	Geological, Petrographic, Geochemical and Mineralogical Descriptions . . . . .	81
2.7.3	Sampling . . . . .	82
2.7.4	Geochemical Tests . . . . .	83
2.7.5	Modeling the Oxidation of Sulfidic Waste Dumps . . . . .	91
2.8	Monitoring Sulfidic Wastes . . . . .	92
2.9	Environmental Impacts . . . . .	94
2.9.1	Soil and Sediment Contamination . . . . .	95
2.9.2	Plant Colonization . . . . .	101
2.10	Control of Sulfide Oxidation . . . . .	102
2.10.1	Wet Covers . . . . .	105
2.10.2	Dry Covers . . . . .	106
2.10.3	Encapsulation, In-Pit Disposal and Mixing . . . . .	111
2.10.4	Co-disposal and Blending . . . . .	112
2.10.5	Addition of Organic Wastes . . . . .	113
2.10.6	Bactericides . . . . .	114
2.11	Summary . . . . .	115
<b>3</b>	<b>Mine Water . . . . .</b>	<b>119</b>
3.1	Introduction . . . . .	119
3.2	Sources of AMD . . . . .	122
3.3	Characterization . . . . .	125
3.3.1	Sampling and Analysis . . . . .	126
3.4	Classification . . . . .	128
3.4.1	Acid Waters . . . . .	130
3.4.2	Extremely Acid Waters . . . . .	132
3.4.3	Neutral to Alkaline Waters . . . . .	132
3.4.4	Coal Mine Waters . . . . .	133
3.5	Processes . . . . .	133
3.5.1	Microbiological Activity . . . . .	134
3.5.2	Precipitation and Dissolution of Secondary Minerals . . . . .	136
3.5.3	Coprecipitation . . . . .	141
3.5.4	Adsorption and Desorption . . . . .	141
3.5.5	Eh-pH Conditions . . . . .	143
3.5.6	Heavy Metals . . . . .	144
3.5.7	The Iron System . . . . .	146
3.5.8	The Aluminium System . . . . .	150
3.5.9	The Arsenic System . . . . .	152



3.5.10	The Mercury System . . . . .	154
3.5.11	The Sulfate System . . . . .	154
3.5.12	The Carbonate System . . . . .	156
3.5.13	pH Buffering . . . . .	157
3.5.14	Turbidity . . . . .	159
3.6	Prediction of Mine Water Composition . . . . .	159
3.6.1	Geological Modeling . . . . .	159
3.6.2	Mathematical and Computational Modeling . . . . .	160
3.7	Field Indicators of AMD . . . . .	162
3.8	Monitoring AMD . . . . .	162
3.9	AMD from Sulfidic Waste Rock Dumps . . . . .	169
3.9.1	Hydrology of Waste Rock Dumps . . . . .	170
3.9.2	Weathering of Waste Rock Dumps . . . . .	171
3.9.3	Temporal Changes to Dump Seepages . . . . .	173
3.10	Environmental Impacts . . . . .	174
3.10.1	Surface Water Contamination . . . . .	175
3.10.2	Impact on Aquatic Life . . . . .	176
3.10.3	Sediment Contamination . . . . .	176
3.10.4	Ground Water Contamination . . . . .	177
3.10.5	Climate Change . . . . .	179
3.11	AMD Management Strategies . . . . .	179
3.12	Treatment of AMD . . . . .	180
3.12.1	Active Neutralization . . . . .	186
3.12.2	Other Chemical Treatments . . . . .	189
3.12.3	Passive Neutralization . . . . .	190
3.12.4	Wetlands . . . . .	192
3.12.5	Bioreactors . . . . .	198
3.12.6	Adit Plugging . . . . .	199
3.12.7	Ground Water Treatment . . . . .	199
3.13	Summary . . . . .	201
<b>4</b>	<b>Tailings . . . . .</b>	<b>205</b>
4.1	Introduction . . . . .	205
4.2	Tailings Characteristics . . . . .	206
4.2.1	Process Chemicals . . . . .	206
4.2.2	Tailings Liquids . . . . .	208
4.2.3	Tailings Solids . . . . .	208
4.3	Tailings Dams . . . . .	210
4.3.1	Tailings Hydrogeology . . . . .	212
4.3.2	AMD Generation . . . . .	214
4.3.3	Tailings Dam Failures . . . . .	217
4.3.4	Monitoring . . . . .	224
4.3.5	Wet and Dry Covers . . . . .	225
4.4	Thickened Discharge and Paste Technologies . . . . .	226
4.5	Backfilling . . . . .	227



4.6	Riverine and Lacustrine Disposal . . . . .	229
4.7	Marine Disposal . . . . .	233
4.8	Recycling and Reuse . . . . .	237
4.9	Summary . . . . .	239
<b>5</b>	<b>Cyanidation Wastes of Gold-Silver Ores . . . . .</b>	<b>243</b>
5.1	Introduction . . . . .	243
5.2	Occurrences and Uses of Cyanide . . . . .	243
5.3	Cyanide Chemistry . . . . .	245
5.3.1	Free Cyanide . . . . .	246
5.3.2	Simple Cyanide Compounds . . . . .	247
5.3.3	Complexed Cyanide . . . . .	247
5.4	Gold Extraction . . . . .	248
5.4.1	Heap Leach Process . . . . .	248
5.4.2	Vat/Tank Leach Process . . . . .	249
5.5	Hydrometallurgical Wastes . . . . .	250
5.6	Cyanide Analysis and Monitoring . . . . .	251
5.7	Environmental Impacts . . . . .	252
5.8	Cyanide Destruction . . . . .	256
5.8.1	Natural Attenuation . . . . .	257
5.8.2	Enhanced Natural Attenuation . . . . .	259
5.8.3	Engineered Attenuation . . . . .	260
5.9	Summary . . . . .	261
<b>6</b>	<b>Radioactive Wastes of Uranium Ores . . . . .</b>	<b>263</b>
6.1	Introduction . . . . .	263
6.2	Mineralogy and Geochemistry of Uranium . . . . .	263
6.2.1	Uranium Ores . . . . .	263
6.2.2	Placer and Beach Sands . . . . .	264
6.3	Aqueous Chemistry of Uranium . . . . .	265
6.3.1	Oxidative Dissolution of Uranium Minerals . . . . .	265
6.3.2	Uranium Solubility . . . . .	267
6.3.3	Uranium Precipitation . . . . .	268
6.4	Radioactivity . . . . .	269
6.4.1	Principles of Radioactivity . . . . .	269
6.4.2	Radioactive Decay of Uranium and Thorium . . . . .	270
6.4.3	Units and Measurements of Radioactivity and Radiation Dose . . . . .	273
6.4.4	Radioactive Equilibrium and Disequilibrium . . . . .	275
6.5	Uranium Mining and Extraction . . . . .	276
6.5.1	Conventional Mining and Extraction . . . . .	277
6.5.2	In Situ Leach (ISL) Operations . . . . .	278
6.6	Mining, Processing and Hydrometallurgical Wastes . . . . .	283
6.7	Tailings . . . . .	284
6.7.1	Tailings Radioactivity . . . . .	284
6.7.2	Tailings Solids . . . . .	285



6.7.3	Tailings Liquids . . . . .	287
6.7.4	Tailings Disposal . . . . .	288
6.7.5	Long-Term Stability of Tailings Dams . . . . .	290
6.8	Mine Water . . . . .	292
6.8.1	Constituents . . . . .	292
6.8.2	Treatment . . . . .	293
6.9	Monitoring . . . . .	295
6.10	Radiation Hazards . . . . .	296
6.10.1	Radiation Dose and Human Health . . . . .	297
6.10.2	Occupational Radiation Exposure . . . . .	298
6.11	Environmental Impacts . . . . .	301
6.11.1	Excessive Radioactivity Levels and Radon Emissions . . . . .	305
6.11.2	Inappropriate Use of Tailings and Waste Rocks . . . . .	306
6.11.3	Failure of Tailings Dams . . . . .	306
6.11.4	Soil and Sediment Contamination . . . . .	306
6.11.5	Ground and Surface Water Contamination . . . . .	308
6.11.6	Acid Mine Drainage . . . . .	309
6.12	Summary . . . . .	309
<b>7</b>	<b>Wastes of Phosphate and Potash Ores . . . . .</b>	<b>313</b>
7.1	Introduction . . . . .	313
7.2	Potash Mine Wastes . . . . .	313
7.2.1	Potash Ores . . . . .	314
7.2.2	Mining and Processing Wastes . . . . .	314
7.3	Phosphate Mine Wastes . . . . .	315
7.3.1	Phosphate Rock . . . . .	315
7.3.2	Mining, Processing and Hydrometallurgical Wastes . . . . .	317
7.3.3	Phosphogypsum . . . . .	320
7.3.4	Disposal of Phosphogypsum . . . . .	323
7.3.5	Potential Hazards and Environmental Impacts . . . . .	329
7.4	Summary . . . . .	332
	<b>References . . . . .</b>	<b>335</b>
	<b>Index . . . . .</b>	<b>393</b>

Table G.3 Weight based concentrations

Unit	Symbol
Parts per million	$\text{ppm} = \text{mg kg}^{-1}$
Parts per billion	$\text{ppb} = \text{ug kg}^{-1}$
Weight percent	$\text{wt\%} = (\text{mg kg}^{-1}) \times 100$