



Geochemistry and Mineralogy of Coal-Bearing Rocks

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Message from the Guest Editors

Coal-bearing rocks, comprising a wide range of sediments with variable content of organic matter, are part of large geological sequences. However, coal mining leads to the extraction of large volumes of coal-bearing rocks as well. The only small percentage of these rocks is usually reused as raw material for such purposes as road and building construction. The remaining part of these rocks is deposited in landfills. This practice, which is used all over the world, causes numerous environmental consequences since the reactive organic matter in coal-bearing rocks is susceptible to oxidation, biodegradation, and self-heating. These processes produce organic and inorganic pollutants emitted to the air or leached to waters and soil. Sulphide oxidation forms acidic conditions favouring mobilization of toxic metals from coal-bearing rocks. They together with chlorides, nitrates, and sulphates are leached and present a significant hazard to surface and groundwaters. Long-term storage of coal-bearing rocks affects the landscape of coal-mining regions and endangers inhabitants living in their vicinity.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Minerals welcomes submissions that report basic and applied research in mineralogy. Research areas of traditional interest are mineral deposits, mining, mineral processing and environmental mineralogy. The journal footprint also includes novel uses of elemental and isotopic analyses of minerals for petrology, geochronology and thermochronology, thermobarometry, ore genesis and sedimentary provenance. Contributions are encouraged in emerging research areas such as applications of quantitative mineralogy to the oil and gas, manufacturing, forensic science, climate change, geohazard and health sectors.

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