

Bioleaching of Sulphidic Concentrates and pH-control with Ashes

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ABSTRACT

Three ashes were compared with limestone for pH control during the biocatalyzed oxidation of pyrite. Iron concentration and ferri/ferro redoxpotential revealed no toxicity from either of the three ashes in comparison with CaCO₃. pH was maintained at 1.5 by the addition of ash-slurry. The required amounts confirmed the neutralizing capacities derived from previous screening studies [1, 2]. ICP-analyses of all solid phases and the final leachate (SGAB-Analytica) were combined to calculate balances for each dominant ion and trace element.

Decontaminated ashes are deposited along with the bioleaching residue.

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