The Mine Water Leaching Procedure: Evaluating the Environmental Risk of Backfilling Mines with Coal Ash. (A05-knox110602-Oral)

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Abstract:

Reduction of the industrial waste stream is encouraged by Federal and State regulations in order to decrease the land area consumed by landfills. In particular, applications that resolve environmental problems are often recognized by state policy as beneficial uses. These are often large volume applications such as the filling of surface and underground coal mines to address hydraulic problems, acid mine drainage, pit backfilling and subsidence.In some states, mine filling projects classified as beneficial use allow the operator to forgo conventional industrial waste disposal conditions such as liners, leachate collection and monitoring.These policies generally specify either the TCLP: Toxic Characteristics Leaching Procedure or the SPLP: Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (USEPA methods 1131 and 1132, respectively) to determine whether the CCB in question is environmentally benign. This study compares the results of these tests with a new method designed specifically for evaluating the risks associated with CCB mine fills: the Mine Water Leaching Procedure(MWLP).

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