Characteristics of Coal Combustion By-Products and Considerations for Use in Site Remediation

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Goals for this talk

• Briefly describe history of coal combustion residuals (CCR) regulation and beneficial use in the mid-Atlantic and the USA.

• Review long-term research findings on CCR characterization, leaching and beneficial use potentials.

• Discuss our findings in relation to current CCR related issues.
Names, Names, Names

- Fly ash, bottom ash & scrubber sludge
- Coal combustion byproducts (CCB’s)
- Coal utilization byproducts (CUB’s)
- Coal combustion products (CCP’s)
- Coal combustion residuals (CCR’s)
Common Coal Combustion Residuals (CCRs)

- **Fly ash** – fine silty material rising with stack gasses. About 60% of CCR’s.
- **Bottom ash** – coarser material falling through grates at bottom of boiler.
- **Scrubber sludge** – Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD’s) residues and other materials removed via lime addition to stack gasses. Much is processed into relatively pure gypsum.
- **Fluidized Bed Combustion (FBC) wastes** – high lime plus ash material from advanced air/lime injection boilers.
Current CCR’s and Trends (ACAA; 2013)

• In 2012, 52 M tons of fly ash were produced; 44% was recycled, mainly in cement and block. Class C = cementitious; F = not; (low Ca)

• 33 M tons of differing types flue gas desulfurization (FGD) gypsum and wet/dry sludges were generated; 40% was recycled, mainly as wallboard.

• 16 M tons of bottom ash and boiler slag were generated; 39 and 83% recycled.

• Many plants co-mingle ash & FGD
Fly Ash Properties

- **Coal fly ash** is dominantly silty materials, often in cenospheres.

- Fly may be quite alkaline (class C) in reaction, but is seldom more than 20% CCE. Most ashes are <15%.

- Many eastern ashes are neutral to acidic in pH (class F) with very limited or negative liming values.
Fly ash is often composed of amorphous alumino-silicates that cool into round spheres as stack gases rise. These cenospheres are often porous and light in density.

Fly ash also commonly contains shards of minerals like feldspars, unburned C, and other fine sized particles.
Current CCP’s and Trends

• **FGD** materials are complex mixtures of various lime forms, gypsum, and frequently sulfites. When wet sluiced, many of them convert mainly to gypsum plus carbonates.

• The sulfites can be phytotoxic if not oxidized to sulfates and/or present in high amounts.

• Fly ash is routinely mixed with FGD for disposal or utilization. CCEs can be quite high; > 50%, so these products have utility as liming materials.
Current CCP’s and Trends

- In general the volume of fly ash is decreasing with time as the volume of FGD increases due to changes in stack clean up.

- The advent of low-NO\textsubscript{x} control systems is increasing the ammonia and unburned C content of fly ash. Both will have undetermined effects on the use of CCP’s as soil amendments.
Fly Ash Properties vs. Soil

• Fly ash is similar to soil in bulk elemental content of Al, Si, O, etc. However, fly ash is amorphous while soil minerals are crystalline.

• Fly ash is enriched in heavy metals (e.g. Cu, Ni, Zn) and certain oxyanion forming elements (e.g. As, Mo and Se) are often condensed/concentrated in the outer portions of the ash particles.
Elemental composition of coal fly ash, a carbonaceous shale, and natural soil materials. Values are averaged from several studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Fly Ash</th>
<th>Shale Weight%</th>
<th>Soil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SiO\textsubscript{2}</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>80.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{3}</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{3}</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K\textsubscript{2}O</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na\textsubscript{2}O</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MgO</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CaO</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elemental composition of coal fly ash, a carbonaceous shale, and natural soil materials. Values are averaged from several studies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Fly Ash</th>
<th>Shale ppm</th>
<th>Soil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cu</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zn</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cr</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ni</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mn</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fly Ash Properties vs. Soil

• Fly ash and FGD are notably different from soils in that they are usually much higher in soluble salts, which are primarily sulfates. Borate is also in most fly ash and is the most mobile ion.

• Soluble salt levels vary widely by ash source and are particularly influenced by handling (e.g. dry hopper vs. wet sluicing).
Mixed fly ash and bottom ash fill near Covington, Virginia.

In one recent project, we sampled and intensively characterized 28 CCPs from our region. Selected data follow.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CCP #</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Bd g cm(^{-3})</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>EC dS m(^{-1})</th>
<th>CCE %</th>
<th>Ext. B mg L(^{-1})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Fly ash</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Fly ash</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Fly ash</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Fly ash</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FGD</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Avg. VA Topsoil: 1.30  6.0  <0.1  0  < 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CCP #</th>
<th>Total B</th>
<th>As</th>
<th>Se</th>
<th>Cr (mg kg$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>Mo (mg kg$^{-1}$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Avg. VA Soil:**

50 5 0.4 23 1

*Va Topsoil Data (Ex. B) from USGS Open-File Report 2005–1253*
A Short History of Fly Ash

• USEPA “delisted” fly ash and related coal combustion by-products (CCB’s) in the early 1990’s from RCRA-C designation. This assumes ash passes a TCLP (Toxicity Characterization Leaching Proc.) test and other tests which vary by state/application.

• Virginia (like many states) developed CCB utilization guidelines for beneficial use by 1993.
Coal Combustion Products (CCP’s)

- Virginia DEQ’s 1993 CCB utilization regulations (9VAC20-85-10) and related conditional exemptions (9VAC20-80-160) are *presumptively* based on *beneficial use* as construction fill, agricultural soil amendment, or mined land reclamation.

- Utilization of CCB’s as a soil amendment is approved on a case-by-case basis by VDACS. At least 6 materials are currently approved for use in Virginia.
Coal Combustion Products (CCP’s)

- Mined land applications and backfills are regulated by VDMLR/DEQ via a set of 1994 guidelines (updated in 2008) developed to ensure compliance with mining regulations.

- Structural fills/mono-fills are exempt when under impermeable covers/pavement or conditioned with a cementitious binder.
CCP’s in Structural Fills

• Most states in the USA allow for CCPs to be placed into structural fills that are either (A) sealed beneath pavement or caps or (B) compacted and isolated above the water table.

• Public and regulatory concern over contaminant leaching from both mine site utilization and structural fills has been growing over time. Most are concerned with As, Se, …
Soil map of Battlefield Golf site before construction. Site was dominated by poorly drained soils, but had been ditched for agriculture. Note row of homes to south, all on shallow drinking water wells.
Battlefield Golf site following heavy rain event in 2008
Initial water sampling indicated elevated Pb and As. Further detailed water quality studies to date conflict on nature and extent of contamination.

Earlier in 2008, local residents of Chesapeake Virginia reported water quality problems in drinking water wells adjacent to a golf course constructed over 1.5 M m³ of CCPs as structural fill.
Surface water in neighborhood to south on same date.
Questions at Battlefield?

- Is the ash fill in direct contact with ground water?

- Are soluble/mobile constituents like B and As moving from the site to local wells?

- Who is responsible?
Overall Guidance

In a structural fill applications, if water is allowed to interact with the ash (via water table rise or infiltration) B and sulfate will leach. Mobility of other metals/oxyanions of concern will be controlled by (A) the bulk ash:solution pH of the fill and (B) the form/phase/leachability of the individual contaminants.

Therefore, we need to focus on limiting water contact and infiltration.
More Guidance

If the CCP utilization environment (e.g. monofill) is allowed to become strongly alkaline (> pH 9), CCP fills or layers should be expected to be *internal sources* of high pH soluble oxyanions such as arsenate, borate and selenate if those constituents are elevated in *potentially soluble forms*.

However, migration away from the fill will be governed by attenuation/dilution factors in the unsaturated 24” buffer zone and downgradient in the local aquifer.
And then on December 23, 2008:

Over 2.5 M m³ of wet CCPs were released due to an embankment failure at Kingston, Tennessee.
According to TVA’S Forensic team: First-time in history phenomenon, denoted as “Creep of a slimes layer at the bottom of the original pond, which caused static liquefaction of the overlying ash”...
One plausible scenario:

From 1984 to 2008, dredge cells grew laterally and vertically, as shown in the photos above and to the right, possibly causing steady-state seepage conditions to develop in the sluiced ash upstream of Dike C within the 200-foot offset zone.

After rupture of Dike C (X marks the spot), the upstream sluiced ash with high pore water seepage pressure, and stability factor of safety less than 1.0, explodes through the breach bringing clumps of cattails with it, and progresses to the northwest as shown by the red arrow in the bottom right photo.
Soil Amendment Use of CCPs

• In general, fly ash can be used as a soil amendment (for Ca, Mg and micro-nutrients) or soil conditioner (adds silt to improve texture and water holding).

• However, most fly ash will be limited to application rates of less than 10 tons per acre due to soluble salt + B effects on plant growth. This limits “economics” of ash use.
Soil Amendment Use of CCPs

- FGD materials vary widely in their trace element (e.g. As, Mo, Se) composition, but are frequently reasonably “clean” with significant CCE as well due to their content of non-reacted lime.

- A number of FGD materials have been labeled for use in Virginia and other states as soil amendments. One example follows.
Reusing by-products in agricultural fields
Darrell Norton’s history with gypsum is long. Throughout decades of research, he has seen the popular soil amendment deliver many benefits to farmers’ fields.

He has also helped find alternative sources for gypsum, advancing it from a mined fertilizer to a by-product of industry and a waste that can be reused for its agricultural value. But despite the benefits, gypsum—along with Norton’s research—has faced its share of obstacles.

Throughout their use, gypsum products created from industry waste have been targeted by the USEPA as possible sources of contaminants. In the early 1990s, the USEPA began to regulate phosphogypsum, a waste product from the phosphorus fertilizer industry, due to concerns about radon emissions. Norton, professor emeritus at Purdue University and retired research soil scientist for the USDA-ARS, says that although radon levels were below those found in natural soils, the use of phosphogypsum was stalled. Large piles of it still sit in states along the Gulf of Mexico.

Likewise, the most widely used gypsum by-product today, flue gas desulfurization (FGD) gypsum, is at risk of being classified as a hazardous waste. The USEPA is testing it for trace elements, such as mercury and arsenic. While research has shown that levels of those elements are extremely low, the agency could halt use of this latest gypsum by-product.

In addition to USEPA regulations, FGD gypsum faces another challenge. This form of gypsum is a by-product of scrubbing sulfur dioxide gases from coal-fired power plant emissions. But the low costs of natural gas could undercut coal-fired power plants and, therefore, the production of FGD gypsum.

“The future of FGD gypsum production looks bleak for two reasons,” Norton says. “One is possible [USEPA] regulations, and two is the high price of scrubbing compared with the low cost of natural gas to produce electricity.”

While the future of gypsum by-products may be uncertain, the reuse of wastes is a necessary goal as the world population and the amounts of waste created continue to increase. While individual citizens do what they can to reduce their impact on the earth, similar efforts are being made by farmers, agronomists, and scientists as sustainability and environmental care become increasingly important to those who work on and with the land. Reuse of by-products and waste through established practices and new techniques is both benefitting agricultural fields and providing the products with a second life. But the reuse of wastes can be tricky. Concerns about contamination and risks set forth the need to balance waste reduction, the agricultural benefit, and environmental safety.

Gypsum is an interesting case study. Also known as calcium sulfate dihydrate, it has been used as a fertilizer and soil amendment for many years to reduce erosion, limit runoff, and increase water quality in nearby surface waters. New sources of gypsum have caused a resurgence of interest in the benefits of
Right, top: Cartridge used with slag on Maryland's eastern shore sites. Right, middle: Box filters containing slag at a poultry farm. Right, bottom: A confined bed slag filter under construction on a golf course in Stillwater, OK.

shoved or dumped out of the filter, and the filter can then be refilled with fresh material.

Several other features of the ditch filters make them customizable structures ideal for various environments—size and shape, the by-product used, and the placement. The filters can be constructed as canisters, boxes, or confined beds depending on the site, and users can choose a by-product that works best for them, taking into consideration the proximity of the source, the cost, and the properties of the material.

Targeting the Hot Spots

Additionally, the site and placement for the filter is an important decision. “It’s best to be very careful on where to place these... to target hot spots where you know you have high concentrations of P leaving the site and it’s likely to make its way to a surface water body,” Penn says. “The idea of just putting the filters randomly wherever there’s concentrated water flow is a waste of time and money. You have to do your homework first.”

Penn’s team is currently working on a filter for one such hot spot on a poultry farm. The runoff at that site flows in front of the barns where some of the poultry litter, which contains P, spills out. The water then heads toward a creek about 200 yards away. With high concentrations of P in that runoff, it was an ideal target for a ditch filter.
Table 1. Basic Chemical Properties and Plant Available Nutrients by Mehlich-1 Extraction from two FGD materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ash (dS m⁻¹)</th>
<th>EC</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>B %</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>Ca</th>
<th>Cu</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 + 2</td>
<td>18.98</td>
<td>8.64</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>9489</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Hot CaCl₂ extractable boron</td>
<td>** Calcium Carbonate Equivalence: the liming capacity of the material with respect to CaCO₃.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3 + 4</td>
<td>13.09</td>
<td>9.66</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>9646</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2. Total Elemental (USEPA 3050) and Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>As</th>
<th>Cd</th>
<th>Cr</th>
<th>Se</th>
<th>As</th>
<th>Cr</th>
<th>Cd</th>
<th>Cu</th>
<th>Se</th>
<th>Zn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 + 2</td>
<td>0.242</td>
<td>&lt;.006</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>0.436</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3 + 4</td>
<td>&lt;0.017</td>
<td>&lt;.006</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>0.098</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sequential fractionation data for two FGD materials. Exchangeable is readily “bioavailable” and carbonate bound forms might solubilize with time in acid soils. Note that most of the total As here would not be expected to be “bioavailable”.

- **Ash Unit 1 & 2**
  - pH: 8.64
  - EC: 18.98
  - CCE: 49.5
  - Exchangeable: 28.0%
  - Carbonates: 17.1%
  - Amorphous Fe & Mn: 5.2%
  - Crystalline Fe & Mn: 4.4 mg kg⁻¹

- **Ash Unit 3 & 4**
  - pH: 9.76
  - EC: 13.09
  - CCE: 39.7
  - Exchangeable: 14.9%
  - Carbonates: 11.1%
  - Amorphous Fe & Mn: 4.3%
  - Crystalline Fe & Mn: 2.4 mg kg⁻¹
Fescue response to loading rates. Note decreased plant growth at higher rates. Why? Salt+B loadings and possibly high pH induced micronutrient deficiencies. Soil used in this bioassay was a pH 6 prime farmland sandy loam.
We also use soybeans in our bioassay approach because they are particularly sensitive to salts, B, high pH and other chemical stressors.
Guidance

While not currently a common practice, utilization of CCP’s as a topical amendment or liming agent to soils is viable, but application rates will be limited to less than 1 to 2% (10 to 20 T/Ac) due to deleterious effects of soluble salts.

Our recent testing has shown a number of these modern materials (primarily FGD’s) to be very low in As and other elements of concern. However, all need testing!
PRP Reclamation Guidelines Bulletin 460-134 summarizes our findings from all aspects of studies summarized today.
Currently, the use of CCP’s to offset AMD is a major regulatory rationale for the backhaul of ash from power plants to dozens of refuse piles in WV and KY. Virginia has no such permits.
Waste Utilization Issues
– Fly Ash

• Many coal fly ash materials are non-alkaline in reaction chemistry and don’t provide any liming benefit

• Many coal fly ash materials are high in water soluble SO$_4$ and B which can strongly inhibit or kill vegetation until leached.

• If coal fly ash is exposed to acid mine drainage, heavy metals may be preferentially stripped and leached.
Regulatory Question: Should we treat entire acid-forming refuse or spoil fills with alkaline CCB’s and/or other waste materials?
Fly Ash Study Components

- Regional Fly Ash Characterization (~15)
- Preliminary Column Studies (M. Jackson)
- Ash Rate Long Term Columns (B. Stewart)
- Greenhouse Pot Studies (M. Beck)
- Ash Mixing/Layering Columns (M. Beck)
- Field Plot Vegetation/Leaching (B. Stewart)
One of many fly ash impoundments/fills sampled in early 1990’s.
Acid forming refuse and ash being blended for column leaching trials.
Preliminary Leaching Columns:

Acid mine drainage (pH=2.3; Fe=10,000 ppm) from unsaturated leaching of high S coal refuse (4% pyritic-S).

High rates of alkaline ash (20 to 33%) prevented acid generation for 6 months.
Larger columns used by Stewart for long term study (after inverting and filling them!)
Alkaline ash being added to acid forming refuse for bulk blended plot work.
33% Fly Ash by Volume in Coal Refuse after 2 Years
Soluble salt/B damage on soybean plants grown in sandstone mine spoil amended with 10% coal fly ash.

Most legumes are very sensitive to salt damage, so seeding should be delayed until after salts leach where possible.
Land Application Limits

• Land application of ashes is usually limited by bulk soluble salts and water soluble B.

• In Virginia, we limit beneficial use of applied ash products by ensuring a post-application EC of < 4 mmhos/cm and a hot water soluble B of < 5 ppm (mg/kg soil).

• Metals and other toxicants are usually not a concern with “true fly ash”, although As and Se may be mobile in high pH applications.
Certain policy makers and global carbon modelers contend that large amounts of CCP’s could be utilized as soil amendments across the Appalachian mined landscape to enhance carbon sequestration of mine soils. Use of CCP’s as a liming agent or in concrete is also a benefit to net C emissions since it limits lime burning to make cement (CaO), drastically limiting CO₂ losses from lime kilns.
None of them, however, have ever tried to plow bulk materials into a mine soil, or permit land application sites with public input!
Saturated Lab Leaching Columns Packed with Acid Forming Coal Refuse and Varying Rates & Types of CCPS.
G. Leachate Mo from long-term leaching columns of acidic coal refuse amended with 0, 10, or 20% CCP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days of leaching</th>
<th>Leachate Mo (mg/L)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Control -
- Control +
- # 16-10%
- # 16-20%
- # 27-10%
- # 27-20%
A. Leachate B from long-term leaching columns of acidic coal refuse amended with 0, 10, or 20% CCP.

The graph shows the concentration of Leachate B (mg/L) over days of leaching. Different symbols and lines represent different conditions and concentrations of CCP. The x-axis represents the number of days of leaching, ranging from 0 to 50, while the y-axis represents the concentration of Leachate B, ranging from 0 to 1000 mg/L.
B. Leachate As from long-term leaching columns of acidic coal refuse amended with 0, 10, or 20% CCP.
H. Leachate Se from long-term leaching columns of acidic coal refuse amended with 0, 10, or 20% CCP

- # 11-10%
- # 11-20%
- # 18-10%
- # 18-20%
- Control -
- Control +

Days of leaching vs. Leachate Se (mg/L)
So, current data sets indicate that we can safely place large amounts of CCPs in these coal waste fills. However, a number of studies (including ours) point to a wide range of potential long-term leaching risks.
Current CCP’s and Trends

• Current regulatory pressure over Hg emissions is leading the industry to develop methods to entrain Hg in ash!

• Hg in ash will be as high as 1 ppm. Normal levels in soils are 0.1 to 0.3 ppm.

• In some instances, Hg will be scrubbed with activated charcoal, increasing ash C. As, Pb and others will be co-removed.
Current CCP’s and Trends

- So, over time, fly ash and FGD are likely to become more enriched in ammonia and C, which limits their use in concrete and block. Expect more pressure for land application of “good ash”!

- The C, Hg, As, and other metal content of ashes will increase, as will the complexity of the geochemical matrix and therefore our ability to predict dissolution rates and bioavailability.
Overall Summary

- Alkaline coal fly ash can be used successfully to offset the generation of acid mine drainage in strongly acid-forming materials like coal refuse.
- Non-alkaline ashes may also be quite useful as topical mine soil amendments at moderate loading rates.
- Soluble B and sulfate may limit both applications, however, and their fate and concentrations downgradient need to be accounted for.
Overall Summary

- Utilization of CCP’s in mined land environments should be conducted under a proven presumption of beneficial use.
- The inherent properties of post-2000 CCP’s are changing; we’re not just dealing with “straight fly ash” anymore!
- Future CCP’s will contain more FGD and alkalinity, and may contain more ammonia, Hg, As and other constituents that will affect their various uses in mined land environments.