CHARACTERIZATION OF SLUDGE IN SAPS SYSTEM

H.S. Park\(^2\), W.H. Ji\(^2\), M. Jang\(^2\), H.J. Lee\(^2\), Y.S. Shim\(^2\), H.H. Kwon\(^2\), Byung-tae Lee\(^3\)

**Abstract:** Sludge characterization was performed to evaluate the impact on the treatment of passive system located at Yahryong 5 pit mine. This system is in Gangneung city, Northeast part of South Korea and is being operated with the sequence of SAPS - oxidation pond - aerobic wetland. Sludge accumulation of 26 cm deep was observed on the surface of SAPS and has started since the system was constructed in Oct. 2003. The chemical analysis results of the mine water showed not only low pH (3.4) and DO (1.6 mg/L) but also high ratio of \(\text{Fe}^{2+}/\text{total Fe}\). Although sludge accumulation could not occur in the above conditions with the basis of chemistry aspects, there are 415 m\(^3\) of sludge resulting in low permeability for SAPS system. According to the XRD, XRF and size distribution analysis of sludge, it showed amorphous phase of Fe, S, and Al oxy/hydroxides. Sludge also had a homogenous distribution size of 4 ~ 10 \(\mu\)m. Loss on ignition (LOI) showed about 57% of organic matter content in sludge. Those results revealed that sludge has been produced by rapid Fe oxidation and it is possible to suggest there might be some medium for rapid Fe oxidation. Isolation results of sludge showed Fe-oxidizing bacteria (*Acidithiobacillus* spp., *Thiomonas* spp.) dominated to lead the rapid oxidation and precipitation of Fe.

**Additional key words:** sludge, SAPS, Fe-oxidizing bacteria

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\(^2\) Hyun-Sung Park, Won-Hyun Ji, Hyun-Ju Lee, Researcher of water treatment team, Min Jang, Senior researcher of water treatment team, Yon-Sik Shim, Team leader of water treatment team, Hyun-Ho Kwon, Director, Institute of Mine Reclamation Technology, Korea Mine Reclamation Corporation (MIRECO), 30 Chungjin-dong St., Jongnu-gu, Seoul 110-727, Korea

\(^3\) Byung-tae Lee, Post-doc, Department of Chemistry & Geochemistry, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO, USA