

Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage

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Preface

Since the first ICARD in 1988, this conference has been a gathering place for industry, government, academia, consultants, regulators, non-government organizations and students. Although new issues have emerged, metal leaching and acidic drainage resulting from sulphidic geologic materials continues to be the most serious environmental challenge facing the mining industry throughout the world.

The term 'acid rock drainage (ARD)' is used as surrogate for drainage from sulphidic geologic materials because of the recognition factor, and because the occurrences are more common and the impacts more severe where the drainage is acidic. However, contaminant concentrations in near-neutral and basic pH may also exceed environmental guidelines. The conference papers deal with the entire pH range associated with sulphidic drainage.

This issue is important to countries in which mines operate and that use the products of mining. Productive use of mineral resources can only be sustained through environmentally sound mining practices. Almost every metal, coal, diamond and uranium mine now has a program to prevent environmental impacts and meet regulatory requirements.

Like it or not, studies are an integral part of any mine, especially if there is a desire to reduce costs. Uncertainty with long-term ARD requirements is a reality at most mines. Information sharing, through the presentation of research results and case studies, is a key part of cost-effective ARD work. Canada has maintained its place as a world leader in ARD, with relatively little expenditure of public resources. This is a testimonial to the cooperative approach and the constructive, technical dialogue among people from differing communities of interest.

The technical program is designed to address issues of importance to the broad community of stakeholders; and contains contributions from around the world. ARD/ML is a complex issue as illustrated by the diversity of both the topics in our technical program and the technical background of the authors. While ICARD has traditionally been, and still is, a technical conference, ARD is not just a technical concern. This is illustrated by the papers under the heading social license that deal with the important topics of sustainable development, community outreach and impact, and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Papers in the proceedings are grouped according topic and in some cases sub-topic. Topics are arranged in alphabetical order. Papers within each topic are arranged in alphabetical order according to the last name of first author. Main categories are Climate Change, Drainage Collection and Treatment, Dry Covers, Mitigation, Monitoring, National Programs, Pit Lakes, Social Licensing and Underwater Disposal. Subcategories exist within Drainage Collection and Treatment and Prediction of Drainage Chemistry.

Acknowledgments

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Thanks to those who submitted papers, especially from other parts of the world. There remains much to learn, and it is great that so many took this opportunity to share their information and experiences. We would like to thank the technical reviewers for their help in improving the quality of papers included in these proceedings. More than a hundred reviewers volunteered their time, and made the task easier for all.

Lastly thanks to my coeditors Charlene Hogan and Gilles Tremblay for all your help and taking on many of the harder tasks.

As always, comments and suggestions regarding this conference are welcomed!

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Each paper in the proceedings was reviewed by at least two peer reviewers. The dedicated efforts of the peer reviewers resulted in the high quality of the technical proceedings.

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