



**MINING AND METALLURGY
INSTITUTE BOR**

and



**TEHNICAL FACULTY BOR,
UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE**



**55th International October Conference
on Mining and Metallurgy**

PROCEEDINGS

**Editor:
Ana Kostov**

**15 – 17 October 2024
Hotel “Đerdap” Kladovo, Serbia**



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLENARY LECTURES

<i>Sajid Hussain Siyal, Muhammad Sufyan Javed, Abdul Qadir</i> DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOLID STATE ELECTROLYTE BY USING THE NOVEL STRATEGY OF UV FOR ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES (LITHIUM ION BATTERIES)	3
<i>Kazutoshi Haga</i> AKITA UNIVERSITY'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND RESEARCH IN MINERAL PROCESSING AND EXTRACTIVE METALLURGY	5
<i>Diana-Larisa Roman, Bianca-Vanesa Boros, Mariana Adina Matica, Constantina-Bianca Vulpe, Adriana Isvoran</i> EFFECTS OF TRIAZOLE FUNGICIDES ON THE SOIL HEALTH TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	7
<i>Yousef Ghorbani</i> FORGING A SUSTAINABLE PATH: SHAPING THE FUTURE SUPPLY OF ENERGY MATERIALS/METALS FOR THE GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION	9
<i>Carlos Frias</i> HYDROMETALLURGY FOR THE MINE-TO-METAL PRODUCTION	11
<i>Vesna Conić, Dragan Milanović, Ivana Jovanović</i> VALORIZATION OF USEFUL COMPONENTS FROM THE SEDEX TYPE ORE THROUGH THE HORIZON 2020 "INTMET" PROJECT	15

GEOLOGY, MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING

<i>Daniel Kržanović, Milenko Jovanović, Radmilo Rajković, Nikola Stanić, Miljan Gomilanović</i> ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF LANDSLIDE REHABILITATION IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE OPEN PIT JUŽNI REVIR ON THE ECONOMY OF THE MAJDANPEK COPPER MINE	27
<i>Daniel Kržanović, Nikola Stanić, Miljan Gomilanović, Aleksandar Doderović, Saša Stepanović</i> EVALUATION OF EXPLOITABLE LEAD AND ZINC ORE RESERVES AT THE RIBNIK DEPOSIT, REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO	33
<i>Miomir Mikić, Sandra Milutinović, Radmilo Rajković, Milenko Jovanović</i> IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECLAMATION OF THE LANDFILL SARAKA, VELIKI KRIVELJ	37
<i>Radmilo Rajković, Miljan Gomilanović, Daniel Kržanović, Saša Stepanović, Miomir Mikić, Milenko Jovanović</i> PROTECTION AGAINST FLYING PIECES DURING BLASTING AT THE OPEN PIT SEVERN REVIR OF THE MAJDANPEK COPPER MINE	41
<i>Slavica Mihajlović, Nataša Đorđević, Vladan Kašić, Srđan Matijašević</i> STRUCTURAL STABILITY OF CALCITE MINERAL AFTER SURFACE MODIFICATION	47



The 55th International October Conference on Mining and Metallurgy

15 - 17 October 2024, Kladovo, Serbia

<https://ioc.irmbor.co.rs>

<i>Jelena Ivaz, Milan Stajić, Dragan Zlatanović, Dejan Petrović, Mladen Radovanović, Milivoje Zlatić</i> STUDY OF APPLICATION THE ANOVA TEST FOR INDICATORS OF SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK IN THE MINING INDUSTRY	53
<i>Ivan Jovanović, Dušan Tašić, Novica Staletović</i> RISKS AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR MINING OPERATION WITH A BALL MILL	65
<i>Milenko Jovanović, Daniel Kržanović, Radmilo Rajković, Miomir Mikić, Miroslava Maksimović</i> APPLICATION OF GEOMATERIALS FOR SECURING AND PROTECTING THE LANDFILLS	69
<i>Aleksandra Ilić, Jovica Sokolović, Vladimir Nikolić</i> A SHORT REVIEW OF APPLICATION THE UAV REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY IN THE SURFACE COAL MINE RECLAMATION	73
<i>Stefan Milanović, Nikola Simić, Lazar Kričak, Milanka Negovanović, Nikola Đokić, Miljan Gomilanović</i> FRAGMENTATION SIZE PREDICTION OF BLASTED MATERIAL USING A SPECIALIZED SOFTWARE FOR DRILLING AND BLASTING	77
<i>Dušan Tašić, Dragan Ignjatović, Vanja Đurđevac, Dragana Savić</i> GEOPHYSICAL TESTS OF THE SMELTER SLAG DEPOSITS AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF FACILITIES IN BOR	81
<i>Miljan Gomilanović, Stefan Milanović, Nikola Stanić, Miloš Živanović, Saša Stepanović, Aleksandar Doderović, Tanja Stanković</i> PROTECTIVE CHANNELS TO PREVENT A POTENTIAL ROCKFALL DURING BLASTING	87
<i>Saša Stepanović, Nikola Stanić, Aleksandar Doderović, Miljan Gomilanović, Jelena Stefanović, Ivan Jelić</i> TECHNICAL SOLUTION FOR SLOPE STABILIZATION IN THE ZONE OF THE DURUTOVIĆI CEMETERY AND THE NEW ČEHOTINA RIVER BED	91
<i>Vladan Marinković, Miroslava Maksimović, Željana Novaković, Milutin Strahinjić, Milenko Jovanović</i> INTERPRETATION AND CREATION OF THE BLOCK MODEL OF THE Zn, Pb DEPOSIT RIBNIK-ŠUPLJA STIJENA	95
<i>Snežana Ignjatović, Ivana Vasiljević, Branislav Sretković</i> DETECTING THE BOUNDARIES OF GRAVITY ANOMALY SOURCES USING THE VERTICAL AND TILT DERIVATIVE	99
<i>Ivana Jelić, Jovica Stojanović, Aleksandar Pačevski, Nikola Vuković, Alena Zdravković, Ana Radosavljević-Mihajlović, Vladan Kašić</i> OXIDATION PRODUCTS OF ARSENOPYRITE AND OTHER SULFIDES FROM THE ORE DEPOSIT SASTAVCI, SERBIA	103
<i>Stefano Utili, Andrea Agosti, Nelson Morales, Cristobal Valderrama, Robert Pell, G. Albornoz</i> OPTIMAL PITWALL SHAPES TO INCREASE THE FINANCIAL RETURN AND DECREASE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE OPEN PIT MINES	109
<i>Aleksandar Doderović, Miljan Gomilanović, Saša Stepanović, Nikola Stanić, Daniel Kržanović, Petar Marković, Tanja Stanković</i> CONSTRUCTING DEWATERING FACILITIES TO STABILISE THE SLOPE OF AN UNSTABLE OPENCAST MINE	115



The 55th International October Conference on Mining and Metallurgy

15 - 17 October 2024, Kladovo, Serbia

<https://ioc.irmbor.co.rs>

<i>Aleksandar Jankovic, Walter Valery, Cameron Gargaro, Kristy Duffy, Thi Nguyen</i> MODIFIED BOND AND RITTINGER ENERGY-SIZE MODELS FOR THE LABORATORY ISAMILL	121
<i>Stefan Trujić, Milenko Jovanović, Daniel Kržanović, Radmilo Rajković, Vladan Marinković, Emina Požega</i> ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF APPLYING THE NATURAL MATERIALS IN GEOGRIDS	129
<i>Dragan Zlatanović, Jelena Ivaz, Dejan Petrović, Mladen Radovanović, Milan Stajić</i> SERBIAN MINING AT THE CROSSROADS: SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE OF MINING PROJECTS	135
<i>Ivica Vojinović, Miloš Stojanović, Dragan Šabaz</i> IIOT IN MINING - POTENTIAL APPLICATION OF "LOW-COST" SENSORS AND THE ARDUINO PLATFORM	145
<i>Ivana Jovanović, Dragan Milanović, Vesna Conić, Tanja Stanković, Miloš Janošević</i> THE ROLE OF BANANA SCREEN IN DMS PROCESS – CASE STUDY	149
<i>Oliver Dimitrijević, Ivana Jovanović, Dragan Milanović, Vesna Conić, Daniela Urošević</i> THE ROLE OF DEWATERING SCREEN FOR FINE FRACTIONS SIEVING IN DMS PROCESS – A CASE STUDY	153
<i>Sanja Petrović, Srđana Magdalinović, Ljubiša Obradović, Sandra Milutinović, Nenad Magdalinović, Emina Požega, Slađana Krstić</i> CERAMIC FILTRATION IN THE IN MINERAL PROCESSING OPERATIONS	157
<i>Katarina Milivojević, Dušan Tašić, Tanja Stanković</i> DETERMINATION OF THE SHEAR STRENGTH PARAMETERS OF CLAY FOR THE HIGH-SPEED TRAFFIC LINE NOVI SAD-RUMA	161
<i>Nikola Stanić, Miljan Gomilanović, Saša Stepanović, Ivan Jelić, Daniel Kržanović, Dejan Bugarin</i> CONSTRUCTION OF THE CEHOTINA RIVER BYPASS AND RELIEF IN THE WESTERN AND SOUTHWESTERN PARTS OF THE POTRLICA OPEN PIT WITH THE FUNCTION OF LANDSLIDE REHABILITATION AND CREATION SAFE COAL EXPLOITATION CONDITIONS IN 2024	167
<i>Lazar Žujović, Aleksandar Cvjetić, Miljan Gomilanović, Nikola Stanić, Aleksandar Doderović, Dejan Bugarin</i> IMPROVING MINERS' SAFETY TRAINING BY UTILIZING 360 DEGREES CONTENT	171
<i>Mladen Radovanović, Ivana Radovanović, Dragan Zlatanović, Milivoje Zlatić, Dejan Petrović, Jelena Ivaz</i> POSSIBILITY OF STOCHASTIC METHODS APPLICATION ON ORE DRAWING FOR BLOCK CAVING MINING METHOD	175
<i>Vanja Đurđevac, Snežana Ignjatović, Dragan Ignjatović</i> TERM AND TYPES OF SOIL STABILIZATION	181
<i>Dragan Ignjatović, Snežana Ignjatović, Vanja Đurđevac, Lidija Đurđevac Ignjatović, Dušan Tašić</i> SUBSOIL STABILIZATION WITH LIME	187
<i>Dragan Šabaz, Miloš Stojanović, Ivica Vojinović</i> TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SLOT RAISE DURING THE FORMATION FREE SURFACE	191



The 55th International October Conference on Mining and Metallurgy

15 - 17 October 2024, Kladovo, Serbia

<https://ioc.irmbor.co.rs>

Ljubiša Obradović, Sandra Milutinović, Srđana Magdalinović, Sanja Petrović

DETERMINATION A DIAMETER OF THE SEDIMENTAL LAKE OF THE NEW FIELD
OF THE LEAD AND ZINC FLOTATION TAILING DUMP IN LEPOSAVIĆ 195

Nenad Vušović, Milica Vlahović

GIS-BASED STOCHASTIC METHOD FOR PREDICTING MINE SUBSIDENCE 199

CHEMISTRY, TECHNOLOGY, METALLURGY AND MATERIALS SCIENCE

Zoran Karastojković, Ana Kostov, Radiša Perić

TEMPERATURE TROUBLES IN CHOOSING A FILLER METAL FOR
BRAZING THE SHAPE MEMORY ALLOYS 205

*Emina Požega, Dragana Božić, Vera Požega, Vesna Marjanović,
Danijela Simonović, Tomica Mančić, Dragan Sokolov*

CHECKING THE LABORATORY OVERALL WORK 209

Uroš Stamenković, Ivana Marković, Vladan Čosović, Boštjan Markoli

IMPACT OF AGING PARAMETERS ON DIFFERENT PROPERTIES OF
THE EN AW-6082 ALUMINUM ALLOY 213

Nebojša Tadić, Mitar Mišović, Žarko Radović

ANALYSIS OF STRUCTURAL AND MECHANICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF
HE EN AW-4043 ALLOY INGOTS 219

Ana Radosavljević-Mihajlović, Srđan Matijašević, Jelena Nikolić

METHOD OF A HIGH TEMPERATURE THERMAL INDUCED PHASE
TRANSFORMATION OF ZEOLITE IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING
THE DIFFERENT MATERIALS OF FELDSPAR TOPOLOGY 225

*Vladan Kašić, Ana Radosavljević Mihajlović, Jovica Stojanović, Slavica Mihajlović,
Melina Vukadinović, Nataša Đorđević, Ivana Jelić*

PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING THE PRODUCTS BASED ON ZEOLITE MINERALS 231

Biljana Zlatičanin, Branislav Radonjić

COOLING CURVE ANALYSIS IN THE Al-Cu-Mg-Ti ALLOY 237

Ana Petrović, Stefan Đorđević, Miloš Đukić, Emina Požega, Dragana Adamović

STRUCTURE AND MORPHOLOGY OF THE COPPER METAL FOAM 243

Silvana Dimitrijević, Aleksandra Ivanović, Stevan Dimitrijević

A MINI-REVIEW ON OPTIMAL LEACHING PARAMETERS IN
THE HYDROMETALLURGY RECYCLING OF Ni-Cd BATTERIES 249

*Dragana Božić, Ljiljana Avramović, Vanja Trifunović, Radmila Marković,
Zoran Stevanović, Emina Požega, Vesna Marjanović*

PILOT PLANT FOR AGITATION LEACHING OF THE FLOTATION TAILINGS 253

Vanja Trifunović, Snežana Milić, Ljiljana Avramović, Dragana Božić

VALORIZATION OF ZINC FROM THE EAF DUST USING
THE HYDROMETALLURGICAL PROCESS 257

*Ljiljana Avramović, Vanja Trifunović, Dragana Božić, Vojka Gardić,
Jelena Petrović, Vesna Conić, Dejan Bugarin*

STABILIZATION OF THE SOLID RESIDUE FORMED AFTER
THE ACID LEACHING OF COPPER FROM FLOTATION TAILINGS 263



The 55th International October Conference on Mining and Metallurgy

15 - 17 October 2024, Kladovo, Serbia

<https://ioc.irmbor.co.rs>

<i>Vesna Krstić, Biserka Trumić, Milijana Mitrović, Nemanja Latas, Mirjana Novaković</i> PHYSICO-CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE Cu-Fe-P ALLOY WITH EMPHASIS ON THE DIFFRACTION ANALYSIS	269
<i>Sonja Miličević, Sanja Martinović, Dejan Todorović, Vladimir Jovanović, Dragan Radulović, Vladan Milošević</i> COPPER REMOVAL FROM WASTEWATER VIA CLINOPTILOLITE: THE DIFFUSION KINETIC ANALYSIS	275
<i>Ivana Marković, Nemanja Marić, Uroš Stamenković, Dragan Manasijević, Ljubiša Balanović, Jasmina Petrović</i> CHANGES IN THE MARTENSITIC β' PHASE IN THE NICKEL ALUMINUM BRONZE DURING AGING	281
<i>Ana Kostov, Aleksandra Milosavljević, Ivan Jovanović</i> DETERMINING THE ACTIVITY AND COEFFICIENT OF ACTIVITY FOR COMPONENTS IN THE COPPER-BASED SHAPE MEMORY ALLOYS	287
<i>Miloš Đukic, Stefan Đorđević, Dragana Adamović, Sanela Vasiljević, Ana Petrović, Emina Požega, Vesna Stankov Jovanović</i> VALIDATION OF THE ICP-MS METHOD FOR DETERMINATION THE HEAVY METALS IN WATER	291
<i>Milan Nedeljković, Srba Mladenović, Jasmina Petrović, Uroš Stamenković, Milijana Mitrović</i> IMPACT OF THE GNS PARTICLES ON MICROSTRUCTURE AND THERMAL PROPERTIES OF THE Sn-0.7Cu SOLDER ALLOYS	295
<i>Marina Jovanović, Adnan Mujkanović, Nadira Bušatlić, Ilhan Bušatlić, Amel Zahirović, Nevzet Merdić, Edin Spahić, Lamija Sušić</i> PROPERTIES OF CONCRETE WITH THE CALCINED LOW-KAOLINITE CLAY AS A PARTIAL CEMENT REPLACEMENT	301
<i>Aleksandra Milosavljević, Ana Kostov, Predrag Stolić</i> LIQUID METAL ALLOYS BASED ON GALLIUM	307
<i>Vladimir Jovanović, Sonja Miličević, Dejan Todorović, Branislav Ivošević, Dragan Radulović</i> SOIL CONDITIONERS AND AMENDMENTS ARE KEY FOR SOIL RESTORATION - TYPES AND METHODS OF PRODUCTION	311
<i>Milijana Mitrović, Saša Marjanović, Biserka Trumić, Milan Nedeljković, Jasmina Petrović, Vesna Krstić</i> INFLUENCE OF THE EXTRUSION PROCESS ON THE GRAIN SIZE OF COPPER MICRO-ALLOYED WITH IRON AND PHOSPHORUS	317
<i>Ljubiša Balanović, Dragan Manasijević, Ivana Marković, Uroš Stamenković, Kristina Božinović</i> CALCULATION OF THERMODYNAMIC PROPERTIES Al-Ga-Sn TERNARY ALLOY USING MUGGIANU AND TOOP MODEL	321
<i>Zita Takacova, Tomáš Vindt, Jakub Klimko, Andrea Miskufova, Dušan Oráč</i> INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING OF SPENT PORTABLE LITHIUM BATTERIES – A BRIEF OVERVIEW	329
<i>Dragana Marilović, Grozdanka Bogdanović</i> LEACHING OF FLOTATION TAILINGS WITH A SULFURIC ACID AND AN IONIC LIQUID IN THE PRESENCE OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE	335
<i>Petra Delimanová, Ondrej Kožej, Iveta Vasková</i> THE IMPACT OF COMMON ADDITIVES ON CASTING SURFACE QUALITY	339



The 55th International October Conference on Mining and Metallurgy

15 - 17 October 2024, Kladovo, Serbia

<https://ioc.irmbor.co.rs>

Jakub Klimko, Jarmila Trpčevská, Kristína Talianová, Petra Růžicková, Dušan Oráč
RECYCLING OF THE SLAG FROM LITHIUM BATTERY RECYCLING345

Biserka Trumić, Slavica Miletić
PROCEDURE FOR QUANTIFICATION THE MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY IN
DETERMINING PROCESS OF TENSILE STRENGTH351

Aleksandar Ćitić, Tamara Radetić, Miljana Popović
THE EFFECT OF HOMOGENIZATION AND ANNEALING ON IGC SUSCEPTIBILITY
OF HOT-ROLLED AA5182 ALUMINUM ALLOY355

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Viša Tasić, Vladan Kamenović, Bojan Radović, Tatjana Apostolovski-Trujić,
Tamara Urošević, Zvonko Damjanović, Milan Protić*
YEAR-LONG MEASUREMENTS OF THE PM₁₀ AND PM_{2.5} IN
AN APARTMENT IN BOR (SERBIA)361

*Bianca-Vanesa Boros, Renata Kovacevic, Mariana Adina Matica,
Constantina-Bianca Vulpe, Gheorghita Menghiu, Diana-Larisa Roman, Adriana Isvoran*
HYDROCHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF POTENTIALLY POLLUTED SURFACE
WATER AND GROUNDWATER SAMPLES BY THE FORMER MINING
ACTIVITIES FROM THE MOLDOVA NOUA AREA365

Jelena Stefanović, Jelena Đorđević, Sandra Guševac, Miloš Živanović, Tanja Stanković
LONG-TERM PREDICTIONS OF CORROSION RATE IN
THE INDUSTRIAL AGGRESSIVE ENVIRONMENT IN BOR367

*Dušan Milojkov, Vukosava Živković-Radovanović, Biljana Dojčinović,
Miroslav Sokić, Gvozden Jovanović, Ivana Mikavica, Marija Simić*
HAIR TRACE ELEMENTS ANALYSIS: A BIOMONITORING TOOL FOR
THE ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES AND HEALTH RISKS373

*Vesna Marjanović, Radmila Marković, Zoran Stevanović, Adriana Isvoran,
Vojka Gardić, Renata Kovačević, Jelena Petrović*
MONITORING THE pH VALUE AND ELECTRICAL CONDUCTIVITY
IN THE RIVERS OF THE BOR AREA379

*Bojan Radović, Viša Tasić, Renata Kovačević, Tatjana Apostolovski-Trujić,
Nevena Ristić, Tamara Urošević, Sanela Vasiljević*
AIR QUALITY IN BOR DURING THE TRIAL OPERATION OF
THE COPPER SMELTER AFTER THE RECONSTRUCTION385

*Radmila Marković, Vesna Marjanović, Zoran Stevanović, Adriana Isvoran,
Vojka Gardić, Renata Kovačević, Jelena Petrović*
MONITORING THE HEAVY METALS CONCENTRATION IN THE RIVERS
IN THE BOR AREA391

*Stefan Đorđević, Miloš Đukić, Ana Petrović, Dragana Adamović,
Jelena Petrović, Ljiljana Lekić, Vesna Stankov Jovanović*
THE IMPACT OF THE VELIKI KRIVELJ OPEN PIT AND MINE WASTES ON
THE WATER OF THE KRIVELJ RIVER IN OCTOBER 2023397

Sandra Milutinović, Ljubiša Obradović, Goran Angelov, Srđana Magdalinović, Sanja Petrović
REHABILITATION AND REINFORCEMENT THE OUTER SLOPE OF THE DAM 6401



The 55th International October Conference on Mining and Metallurgy

15 - 17 October 2024, Kladovo, Serbia

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<i>Emina Požega, Dragana Božić, Vera Požega, Srdana Magdalinović, Sanja Petrović, Miloš Đukić, Milenko Jovanović</i> VERIFYING THE LABORATORY QUALITY SERVICE BY AN INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON	409
<i>Ivan Jelić, Petar Jelić, Nikola Stanić, Miloš Živanović, Saša Stepanović, Miljan Gomilanović, Tanja Stanković</i> 2D-HEC-RAS MODELING OF THE FLOOD WAVE PROPAGATION DUE TO THE RTH FLOTATION DAM OVERTOPPING FAILURE	413
<i>Miloš Živanović, Jelena Stefanović, Jelena Đorđević, Sandra Guševac, Ivan Jelić, Nikola Jovanović, Tanja Stanković</i> TEMPORARY RIVER REINFORCED CONCRETE CROSSING STRUCTURE ACROSS THE NEW MUŠNICA RIVERBED	419
<i>Petar Jelić, Ivan Jelić, Saša Stepanović, Jelena Đorđević, Jelena Stefanović, Aleksandar Doderović, Tanja Stanković</i> MONITORING OF THE RELOCATED ČEHOTINA RIVERBED	423
<i>Sunčica Stanković, Violeta Jovanović, Vesna Krstić</i> MODELING THE LINKS BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, GREEN INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS IN THE MINING COMPANIES	429
<i>Marija Jonović, Lidija Barjaktarović, Maja Stevanović, Dejan Bugarin</i> TRANSFORMING RISKS INTO OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF A SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE	435
<i>Marijana Pavlov-Kagadejev, Aleksandra Milosavljevic, Milan Radivojevic</i> COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE TIME SERIES DECOMPOSITION TECHNIQUES IN THE ENERGY SECTOR APPLICATIONS	441
<i>Slavica Miletić, Biserka Trumić, Suzana Stanković</i> INTER-VERIFICATION OF THE PERSONNEL BY THE STANDARD TEST METHOD ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ISO/IEC 17025:2017 STANDARD	447
<i>Sandra Guševac, Jelena Đorđević, Jelena Stefanović, Ivan Jelić, Miloš Živanović</i> CONCRETE WITH COPPER SLAG AS A PARTIAL REPLACEMENT OF THE NATURAL AGGREGATE	451
<i>Nikola Lekić</i> DEVELOPMENT A SOFTWARE TOOL FOR MONITORING THE WATER LEVEL AT THE ASH LANDFILLS: A CASE STUDY OF KOSTOLAC, TENT B AND KOLUBARA	455
<i>Jelena Đorđević, Sandra Guševac, Jelena Stefanović, Ivan Jelić, Miloš Živanović</i> POSSIBILITY OF THE STEEL SLAG USAGE IN THE CIVIL CONSTRUCTION	459
INDEX OF AUTHORS	463

RISKS AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR MINING OPERATION WITH A BALL MILL

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Abstract

The employees and responsible persons in the mining industry are obliged to work with full attention for the safety of their lives and health as well as the lives and health of other employees, protection of mining facilities, work equipment and other material assets and to comply with the established safety and health measures at work. The employees and responsible persons who do not comply with the established measures of safety and health at work, fire protection and other measures within the mining operations, commit a serious violation of their work obligations. This paper presents the risks and protective measures, use and safe operation of a ball mill, used in the mining operation – grinding, without delay about any occurrence of danger during the performance of mining work, especially about the occurrence that may threaten the safety of employees, material goods and property and life and health of people.

Keywords: protective measures, mining, ball mill

1. INTRODUCTION

Based on the Law on Mining and Geological Explorations ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 101/2015, 95/2018 – other law, and 40/2021) - Part VIII: Protective Measures; the Law on Safety and Health at Work ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 35/2023), the Rulebook on the Procedure for Inspection and Checking the Work Equipment and Testing the Working Environment Conditions ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 15/2023); and the Rulebook on Occupational Safety and Health in the Mining and Metallurgy Institute Bor; the instructions for handling, use and safe work with the mining equipment should be created.

In order to protect the life and health of employees, the organizations in the mining industry are obliged to: [1]

- Regulate the safety and health of employees at work, in accordance with the specifics and dangers that may arise,
- Organize the performance of safety and health at work, in accordance with the laws and regulations on safety and health at work,
- Provide the personal protective equipment and personal protective equipment for the employees,
- Provide the protection against fire, breakdowns, accidents, and chemical and other accidents and organize the rescue operations, and
- Organize the training of workers in the field of safety and health at work and rescue operations, in cases of a sudden danger to the life and health of people and



safety of facilities according to the established plan and program, throughout the year and to check the knowledge once a year.

It is necessary to create a manual for handling, use and safe operation for each device used in the mining industry,

This User Manual must contain the essential instructions for operation and maintenance of a device that must be strictly followed. It is essential that they are read by the operator and qualified personnel responsible for device before a device is ordered. This User Manual must be visible, legible and accessible at the place of use at all times.

The user of a device must confirm to the administrative operator (owner) that he has received the sufficient instructions on operation and maintenance of the device. The user has received the operating manual, read it, as well as all warnings related to it, and therefore has all the information necessary for safe operation and is sufficiently familiar with the device.

In this paper, the results of the risks and protective measures, use and safe operation of a ball mill used in the mining operations will be presented.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

Grinding is a technological operation for crushing the solid particles to the desired size. [2] It is the final stage of size reduction the mineral raw materials affected by the external mechanical forces. Reduction of coarseness by grinding is carried out to the limiting coarseness, required by the concentration process, or in the case when the raw material does not go into the concentration process to the coarseness required by the market.

The goal of comminution is to increase the specific surface area of the comminuted material. As a preparatory procedure, grinding, in addition to reducing the coarseness, always is aimed to release the useful mineral components from grain. Concerning this, a special set task is to ensure a satisfactory level of release, without causing the undesirable ore crushing.

Grinding is carried out in different types of mills, classified according to their characteristics (drum mills with balls or rods, autogenous mills, vibration mills, mills with rolling elements, colloid mills, etc.), and can work dry or wet (without or with addition of water). [3]

A ball mill TM 300 XL, the German company Retsch in the Mining and Metallurgy Institute Bor, consists of a rotating drum with balls inside. [4] The material to be ground is introduced into a drum through an axial part of the drum. When the ball drum rotates, due to the impact and friction, the material particles ground are crushed. The drum shell is made in the form of a sieve so that sufficiently finely divided particles pass through it. The ball mill operates continuously, and its particles of various materials can be crushed to very small dimensions.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The ball mill TM 300 XL is successfully used in almost all areas of industry and researching. This particularly applies to high demands in terms of hygiene, speed, finesse and reproducibility.

Thanks to its robust design, the ball mill has proven particularly good in the mining industry, but also in the construction materials sector (cement), geology, mineralogy, metallurgy and power plants.

The earth, concrete, electronic components, ore, glass, ceramics, coal, coke, corundum, metal oxide, minerals, plant parts, slag, silicates, cement, cement clinker, and many other substances can be ground quickly and easily with this device.

The device advantages are as follows:

- powerful and fast grinding of large quantities,
- suitable for dry and wet grinding,
- variable speed, repeatable results,
- modules for ball mills and rod mills are available,
- simple tilting to rinse a mouth of the mill,
- convenient setting of parameters via display,
- separation grid for sample separation from the grinding balls,
- sanding of the seal with a protective cover for safe operation, and
- solid cover for noise protection.

The device is used for its intended purpose – milling and grinding. There are the following risks and protective measures:

1. Risk of the explosion or fire. During the grinding operation, the sample characteristics are changed. Considering the properties, and therefore the hazards of sample, it may be changed may during the grinding process. Any substances cannot be used in the ball mill that pose a risk of explosion or fire. Due to its design, the mill is not suitable for use in hazardous and potentially explosive atmospheres as well as it cannot be used in a hazardous atmosphere.

2. Risk of body injury. There is a danger from the sample nature. Depending on a hazardous nature of sample, an operator should take the necessary measures to exclude any danger to the persons who operate with the mill. It should be followed the safety guidelines and data sheets for the material samples.

3. Risk of the area of device use. The ball mill is a laboratory machine designed for 8-hour single-shift operation and researching. The ball must not be used as a production machine, nor it is intended for a continuous operation.

4. Risk of the grinding set wear and tear due to the insufficient filling volume. Increased wear or damage to the grinding kit is possible if the grinding mill is operated with insufficient fill volume. The grinding set must be filled to at least 40% of the nominal volume.

5. Risk of reduction the tool service life due to the abrasive material samples. The presence of abrasive composite materials during grinding can significantly reduce tool life. When grinding electronic waste, an operator should consider the properties of composite materials.

6. Risk of the loud noise while grinding with the possibility that the sound signals are not heard. During the grinding operation, the acoustic alarms and voice communication may not be heard. The operator must consider the volume of grinding noise in relation to the other acoustic signals in the work environment and should use the additional visual cues.

7. Risk of the possibility the mill continues to run. There is a significant risk of injury if the mill and associated parts run for a long time without braking. There is a measure of emergency unlocking. The operator will activate the emergency unlock only when the mill is completely turned off and disconnected from the power supply.

8. Risk of reduction the tool service life with the used abrasive material samples. The presence of abrasive composite materials during grinding can significantly reduce a tool life of the mill. When the electronic waste is grinding, the operator must consider the properties of composite materials.

9. Risk of burns due to a hot grinding bowl. Depending on the grinding process, the material is ground and consequently the grinding can become very hot. The operator should wear the appropriate protection such as the protective gloves whenever touch the grinding bowl, especially if it is hot.

10. Risk of a fatal electric shock. Electric shock can cause injuries in the form of burns and cardiac arrhythmia, respiratory or cardiac arrest. The blender must not be clean under running water. A cloth soaked in water should be used for cleaning. The power supply before cleaning the blender must be disconnected.

11. Risk of a high voltage through the capacitor discharge. Due to the discharge of capacitor on the frequency converter, the mill has voltage for up to 5 minutes after pulling out the plug. After removing the power cable, the operator should wait 5 minutes before opening the mill.

12. The ball mill must always be switched off and disconnected from the mains before any cleaning or servicing interventions.

According to the presented possible risks and protective measures, it is necessary:

- to apply the prescribed measures for the safe and healthy work,
- to use the means of work, chemicals and other substances,
- use the personal protective equipment correctly, handles it carefully and returns it neatly to the place intended for its storage,
- before starting work, inspect workplace, including the means of work which is used, as well as personal protective equipment, and report any deficiencies to the authorized person,
- before leaving, leave the workplace and work equipment in such a condition that they do not endanger the other employees.

4. CONCLUSION

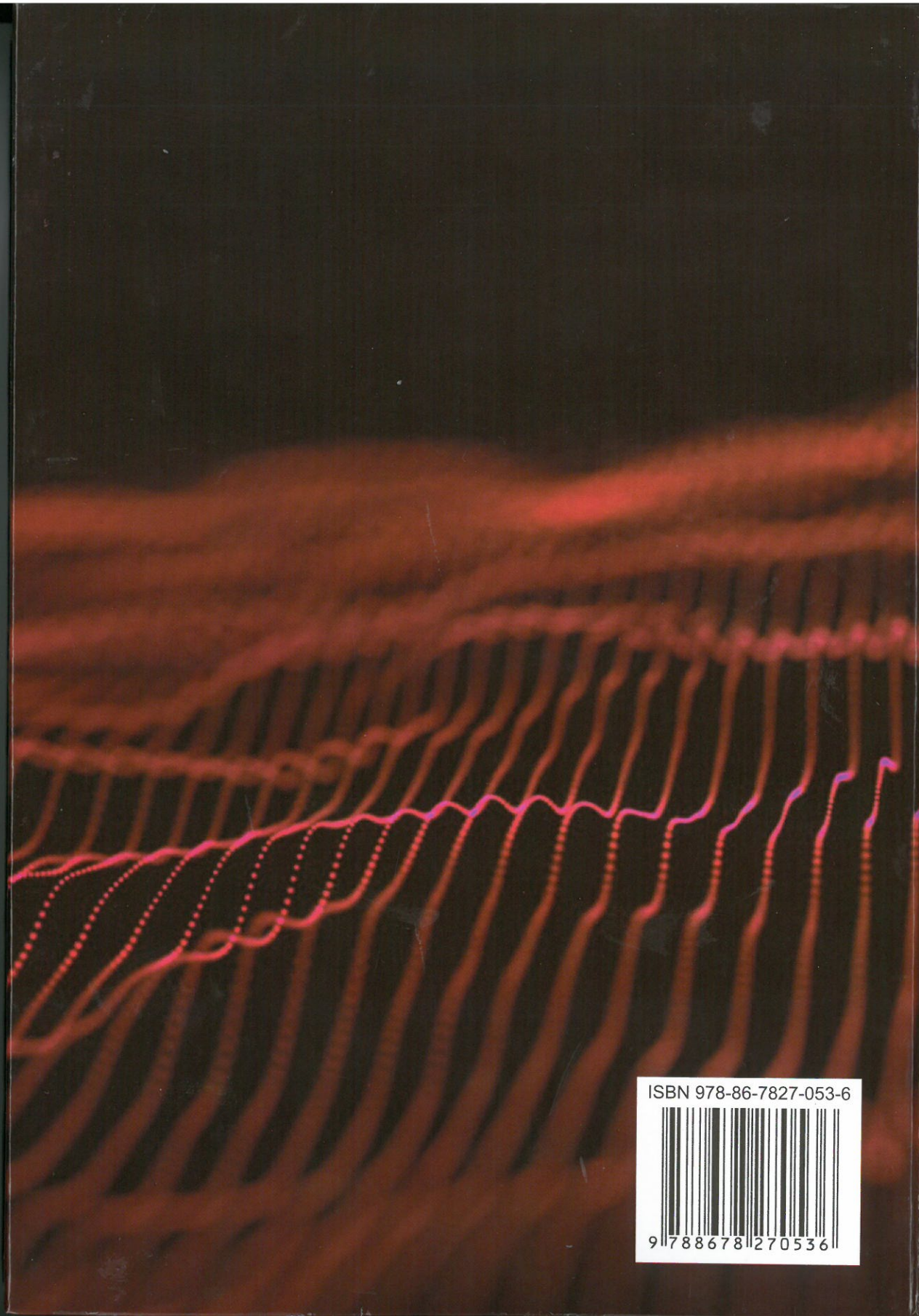
Risks, especially operational risks, affect more systematic aspects of a process or operation. They are those risks that can be readily identified as having one or more types of impact and which affect an expected outcome. Different operations and their activity areas in mining will face any number of operational risks for grinding with ball mill. These types of risks are an integral and unavoidable component of business. A wide range of risk assessment approaches are available to the mining industry. It is important that the decision makers choose a risk assessment technique that is suited to their application and information needs.

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