

Introduction to the Environmental Mineralogy Special Issue

Welcome to the Environmental Issues of the *American Mineralogist* and the *Mineralogical Magazine*. This is truly an exciting time for mineralogists around the world, as numerous problems of environmental importance require the combined talents of our community of scientists and students alike. Many of these environmental concerns are illustrated in the two special issues. The papers provide examples of not only how mineralogy can provide detailed information relating to each specific problem, but also how mineralogical research ultimately contributes to the development of effective solutions to these problems.

The papers appearing in these special “green” issues are the result of an effort that was jointly conceived and promoted by officers and members of the Mineralogical Society of America and the Mineralogical Society in the United Kingdom. They subsequently decided that the International Mineralogical Association’s 2002 meeting in Edinburgh would provide an ideal starting point for the Editors and Editorial Staff of the *American Mineralogist* and *Mineralogical Magazine* to pursue two parallel environmental mineralogy issues. At the meeting, both mineralogical societies announced their intentions to publish individual special issues focusing on such environmental mineralogical topics as the effects of minerals on human health, minerals that form in surficial acidic environments, and microbe–mineral interactions. Announcements were published and e-mailed to members, who also were encouraged to forward the information to colleagues who otherwise might publish their environmental mineralogical articles in other journals.

From the perspective of history, it is interesting that although the foremost mineralogical societies of the United States and the United Kingdom have conjoined to bring you their respective sets of environmental mineralogy papers, the participation has been on a much broader international basis. The world shares many historical trends in mining and industrial development and, in the spirit of this international involvement, it is fitting that we are working together in an attempt to address some of the consequences of our industrial progress.

Clearly, the major goal of this special issue is to highlight some of the important research that is occurring in the new, multidisciplinary field of environmental mineralogy. Another goal is to reveal to the members and officers of the mineralogical societies an indication of the range of mineralogical research that can be considered pertinent to the environmental sciences. Lastly, the society officers and the journal editors want to encourage the submission of more manuscripts on this challenging topic.

Sincerely,

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American Mineralogist Special Editors