

CLAYS AND CLAY MINERALS FOR POLLUTION CONTROL

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Abstract – A widespread recognition of the need to develop technologies for pollution control has arisen in only relatively recent times. This has been a result of increased awareness of the effects of pollution on the health and longevity of both human beings and the earth's fragile ecosystems. Therefore it is not surprising to find that clays have not been used for environmental protection to any great extent until quite recently. Thus, such an authoritative volume on the practical applications of clays as Grim's *Applied Clay Mineralogy* [Grim, 1962] included only three uses that could be called "environmental" among the 34 miscellaneous uses that he identified, and none among the five major uses that were enumerated. The uses of clays with arguably environmental aspects that Grim [1962] identified over 4 decades ago were those for radioactive waste disposal, floor adsorbents, and water clarification. The major uses that were identified for clays at that time were for ceramics, foundry moulding sands, engineering properties, petroleum discovery and recovery, and the refining and preparation of organic materials.