



# Utilization of coal wastes in municipal waste landfill reclamation — a Katowice-Wełnowiec case study, Poland

Justyna Ciesielczuk, Monika Fabiańska,  
Magdalena Misz-Kennan, Jolanta Pierwoła, Anna Abramowicz

*University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland, [justyna.ciesielczuk@us.edu.pl](mailto:justyna.ciesielczuk@us.edu.pl)*

Katowice

Siemianowice Śląskie

**POLAND**  
Silesian Voivodeship

# KATOWICE-WĘLNOWIEC DUMP

1991-1996:  
rubbish dump  
area ca 1.6 ha  
1.6 mln tonnes of wastes:  
22.6% of coal wastes  
21.5% of municipal wastes  
40% of building wastes  
40% of composting plant wastes

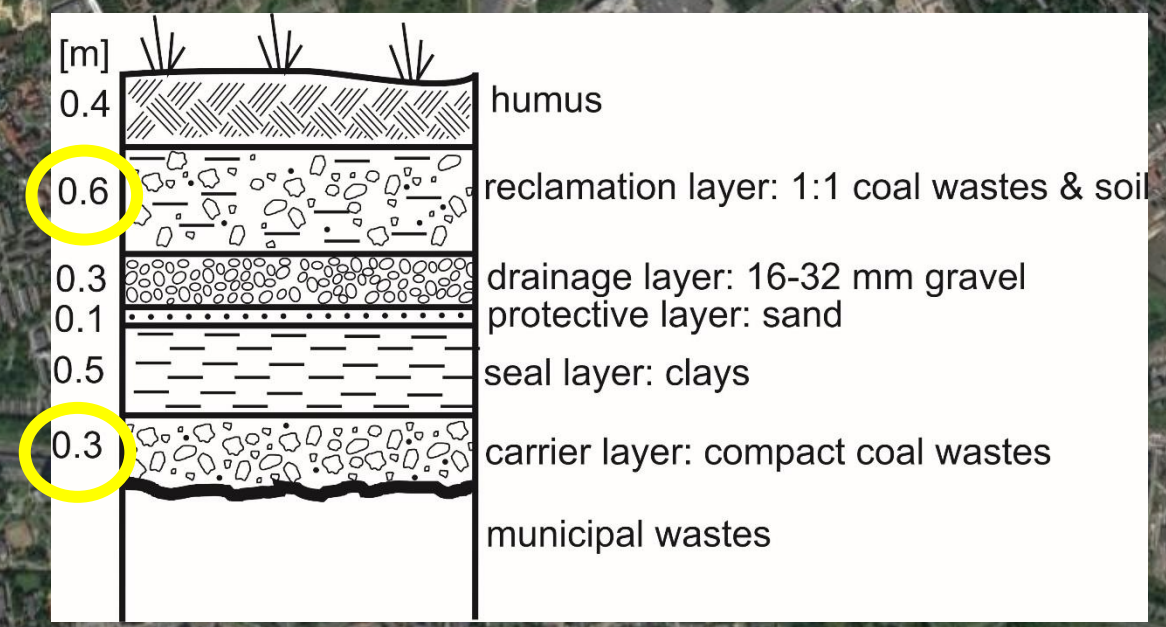
2001:  
methan exploitation:  
gas collecting installation with 39 boreholes



~2.5 km

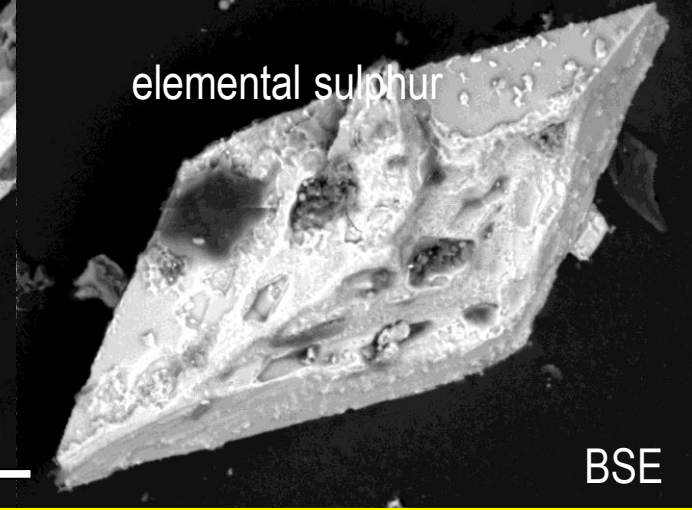
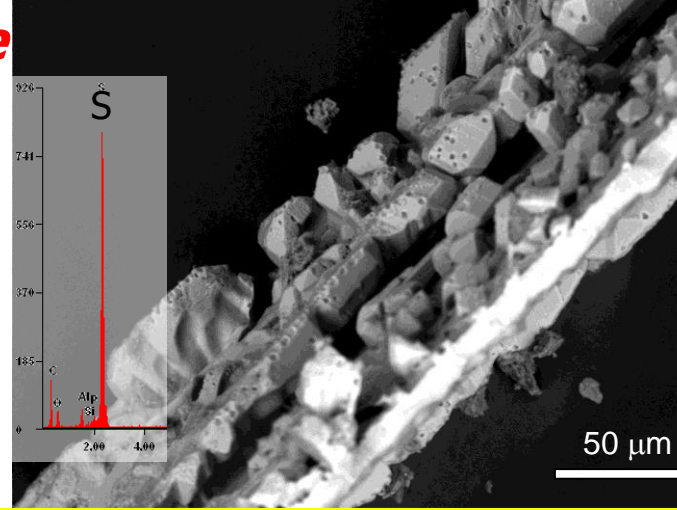
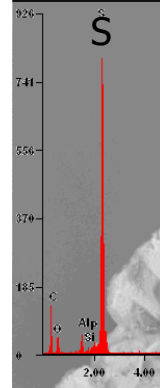


1998:  
municipal waste  
landfill reclamation  
with multi-barrier system:



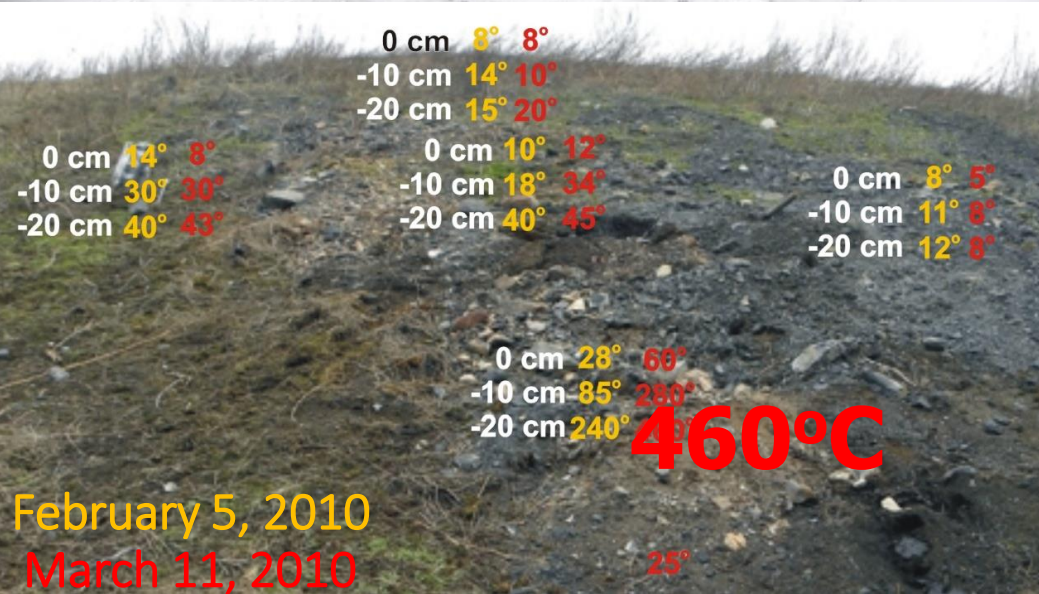
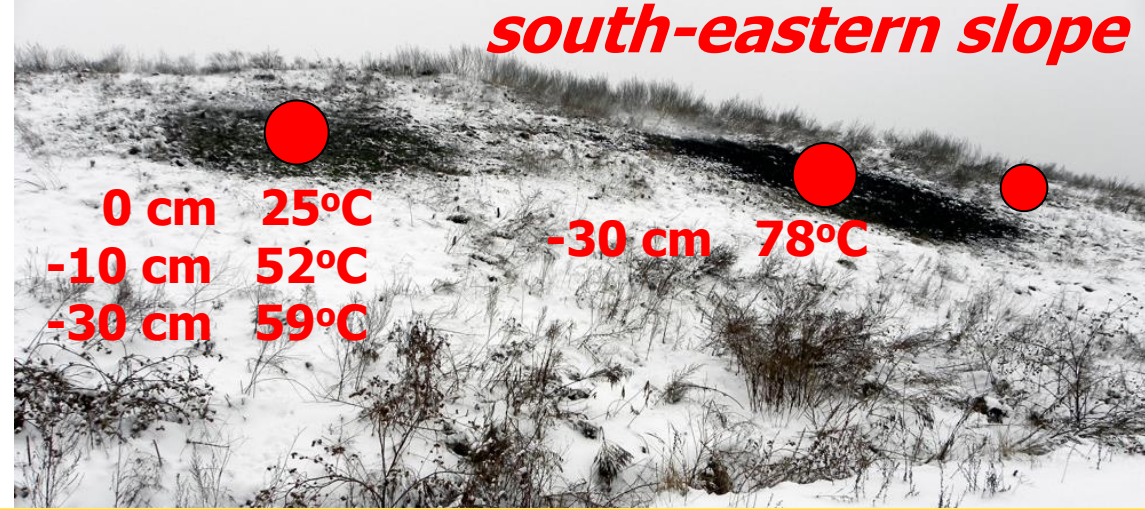
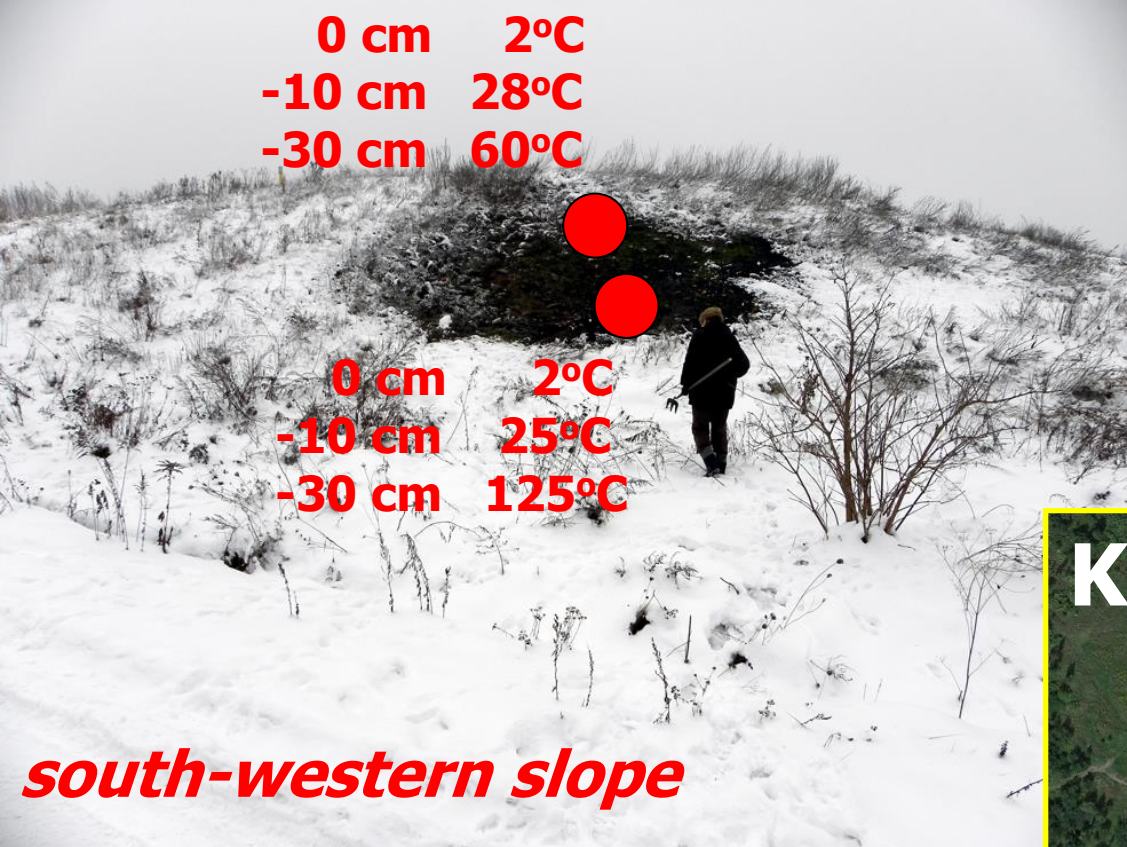
*northern slope, eastern part*





# Katowice-Wełnowiec dump







***northern slope, central part***



# Katowice-Wełnowiec dump

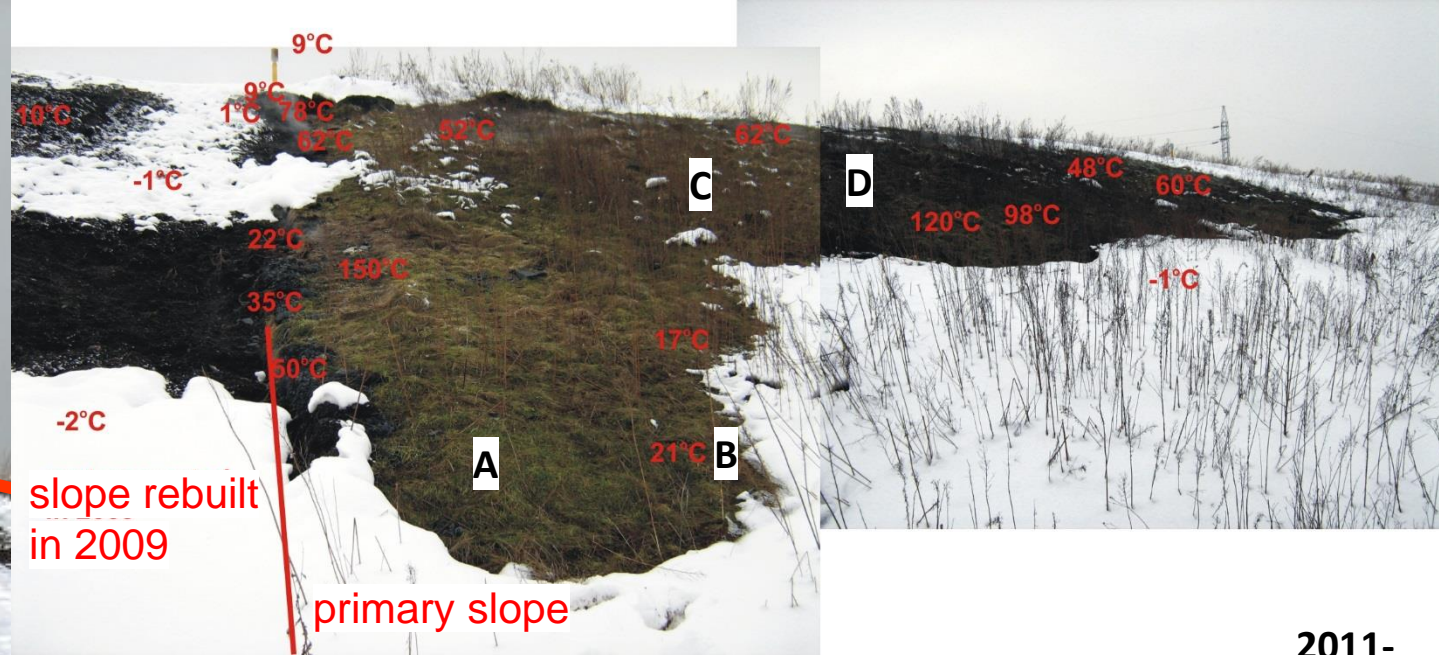


Google Earth

© 2017 Google

100 m

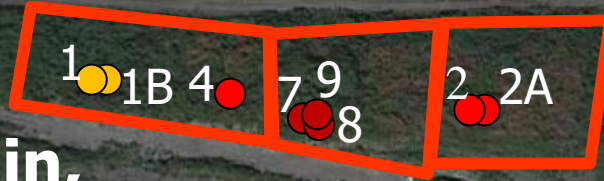




	2011-03-29			
2010-10-22	A	B	C	D
Temp. 0 m	15°C	55°C	20°C	85°C
Temp. -0.3 m	40°C	90°C	48°C	670°C
Temp. -1 m	220°C	220°C	110°C	n.d.
CO %	1.5	>3	2.5	n.d.
CO <sub>2</sub> %	>18	>18	>18	n.d.

## Aims:

- to discover the fire's origin,
- to determine thermal activity influence on organic and inorganic geochemistry, petrography, and mineralogy of the wastes and leachates,
- to apply geophysics to distinguish:
  - municipal and coal wastes
  - burnt and unburned coal wastes,
- to determine a real thickness of coal wastes used for reclamation,
- to prove if the planned multi-barrier system of municipal waste landfill reclamation was applied at any part of the Wełnowiec dump.



## Methods:

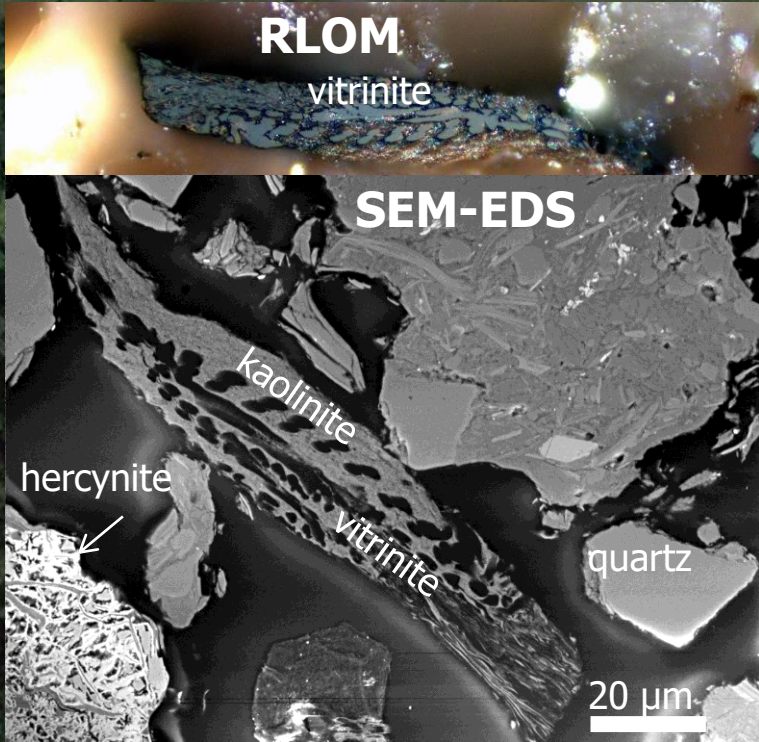
Powder X-ray Diffraction PXRD  
Scanning Electron Microscopy SEM- EDS  
Reflected Light Optical Microscopy RLOM  
Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry GC-MS  
X-Ray Fluorescence XRF  
Atomic Absorption Spectrometry AAS  
Electrical Resistivity Tomography ERT  
Electromagnetic Profiling FDEM





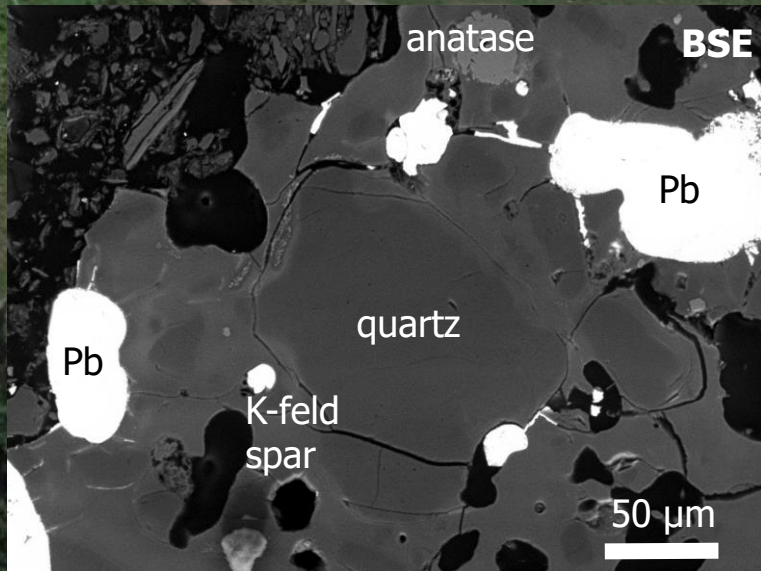
# ZONE I - INITIAL

is located at the edges of active zones, where fire overtakes new volume of the coal wastes



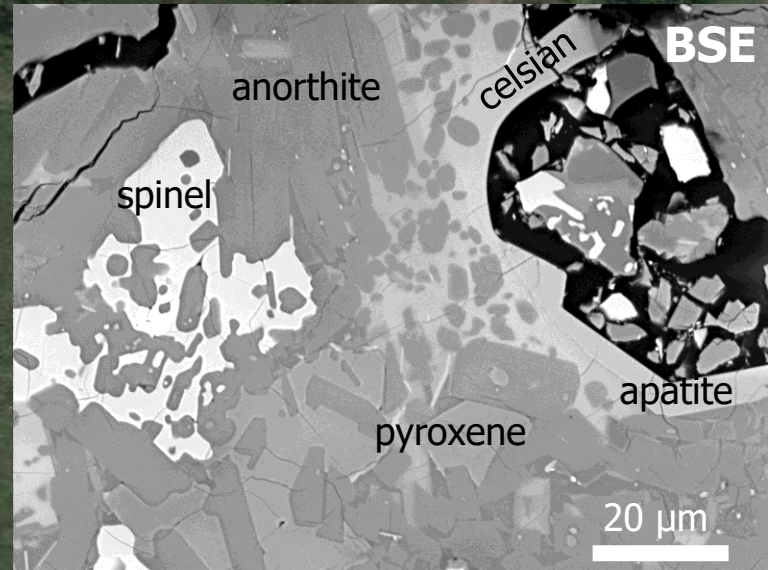
# ZONE A - ACTIVE

is located within areas where fire has never been extinguished and the temperature has reached 400-500°C at the surface in the exhalation flues



# ZONE O - OVERBURNED

characterize in temperatures being high for a long time, up to 800-900°C and higher; the zone was accessible thanks to fire-extinguishing works



# ZONE F - FORMER

were short termed and fire was not intensive there; temperatures oscillated between 70-100°C, with maximum of 460°C lasting only up to 1-2 months

# Mineralogy...

## Thermal zones

	1	1B	2	2A	4	5	6	7	8	9
	initial		active			former		overburned		
quartz SiO <sub>2</sub>	XXX	XXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX		X	X
illite / muscovite KAl <sub>2</sub> (AlSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>10</sub> )(OH,F) <sub>2</sub>	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	X	XX	XX	X			
biotite K(Mg,Fe) <sub>3</sub> (AlSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>10</sub> )(F,OH) <sub>2</sub>	EDS						EDS			
kaolinite Al <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (OH) <sub>4</sub>	XX	XX	XX		XX	XX	XX			
dickite				XX						
chlorite (Mg,Fe) <sub>5</sub> Al(Si <sub>3</sub> Al)O <sub>10</sub> (OH) <sub>8</sub>	XX	XX								
clinocllore Mg <sub>5</sub> Al(Si <sub>3</sub> Al)O <sub>10</sub> (OH) <sub>8</sub>			X		XX	XX	X			
microcline KAlSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	XX	XX	EDS	XXX	XX		XX			
orthoclase KAlSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>						XX				XX
coal	EDS	EDS	EDS	EDS	EDS	EDS	EDS			EDS

...minerals of wastes

crystalite SiO <sub>2</sub>									X	
celsian (K, Ba)AlSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>								EDS		
plagioclase (Na, Ca)AlSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	X				X	EDS	XX			
anorthite CaAl <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub>								XXXX		XXXX
cordierite Mg <sub>2</sub> Al <sub>3</sub> [AlSi <sub>5</sub> O <sub>18</sub> ]									XXXXX	
corundum Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>				EDS						
mullite Al <sub>6</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>13</sub>			XX						XXX	
olivine group (Fe, Mg) <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub>								XX		
augite								XXX		XXX
hematite Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		?	EDS	EDS				X	X	X
magnesioferrite MgFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>								X		
magnetite FeFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>		?	EDS						X	
hercynite FeAl <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	EDS		EDS					EDS		
spinel (Mg, Fe)Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>		EDS			?			?		X
calcite CaCO <sub>3</sub>		EDS	EDS	X	trace	EDS				
dolomite CaMg(CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>						EDS				
hydroxyapatite Ca <sub>5</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> (OH)		EDS	EDS	EDS	Cl-EDS	EDS		X		
gypsum CaSO <sub>4</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O				XX						
sal ammoniac NH <sub>4</sub> Cl				X						
glass		?	EDS	EDS	EDS	EDS		EDS		EDS

...combusted phases

calcite CaCO <sub>3</sub>		EDS	EDS	X	trace	EDS				
dolomite CaMg(CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>						EDS				
zircon ZrSiO <sub>4</sub>	EDS	EDS			EDS					
monazite-(Ce) (Ce,La)PO <sub>4</sub>	EDS									
anatase TiO <sub>2</sub>	EDS				EDS					
lead Pb				EDS	EDS					
iron Fe								EDS		
chalcopryrite CuFeS <sub>2</sub>								EDS		
ZnS					EDS					

...minerals in traces

# Chemistry [mass %]

Element	Cause / mode of occurrence	initial	active	former	overburned
Si	carbonates, sulfates, depletion in quartz	24.80	19.43	26.30	22.20
Ti	affinity to anatase and zircon	0.56	0.43	0.42	0.37
Al	carbonates	5.85	4.05	4.71	5.03
K	depletion in muscovite and K feldspar	2.81	1.67	2.91	1.74
Sb	hercynite? coal? plagioclase? ZnS, chalcopyrite	0.10	0.05	0.23	0.07
In		0.65	0.49	0.63	0.39
Sc		0.01	0	0.01	0
Fe	Fe oxides	1.64	2.74	1.49	7.24
Mn	Fe oxides	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.17
Mg	augite	0.33	0.47	0.24	1.42
Ca	calcite, augite, anorthite	0.27	2.68	0.29	4.68
P	apatite	0.15	0.30	0.14	0.25
Sr	celsian	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.05
Ba	celsian	0.06	0.10	0.09	0.53
Se	ZnS, lead, gypsum, coal	0	0.01	0	0.01
Ce		0.01	0.05	0.03	0.09
Pr		0	0.04	0.03	0.05
Nd		0.01	0.04	0.04	0.14
Sn	affinity to Fe oxides	0	0.01	0	0.03
Te		0.21	0.38	0.22	0.60
I	sal ammoniac	0	0.02	0	0.01
S	gypsum, ZnS	0.19	1.47	0.14	0.14
Cl	salammoniac, chlorapatite	0.05	0.59	0.05	0.06
Zn	ZnS	0.01	0.10	0.02	0.01
Pb	combusted Pb	0	0.07	0	0
V	affinity to illite	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01
Cr	affinity to chlorite and spinel	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.02
Co	affinity to Fe oxides	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.04
Rb	affinity to illite	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Ge	affinity to Fe oxides	0.11	0.06	0.11	0.17

**initial & former >>**  
**active & overburned**

**active & overburned**  
 >> **initial & former**

**active**

no correlation

absent elements: As, Cd, Hg, Hf, Nb, Ta, Th, U, Br, Rh, Ag, Ir, Pt, Au, Ga, Cs, Tl, W, Mo, Ni, Cu, Y, La, Dy

# Leachates [mg/kg]...

# ...minor elements

## ...major elements

Mg

K

Ca

Mn

Fe

total

	initial	active	former	overburned
rock	3310	4737	2375	14160
leachate	30	411	45	175
%	0.90	15.03	1.93	1.19
rock	28050	16667	29050	17423
leachate	193	466	212	202
%	0.66	3.42	0.75	1.41
rock	2660	26823	2850	46783
leachate	165	7160	427	4660
%	5.32	14.88	17.52	10.30
rock	259	543	303	1657
leachate	0.00	8.3	0.00	0.47
%	0.00	1.53	0.00	0.03
rock	16400	27400	14850	72433
leachate	0.26	0.19	1.0	0.79
%	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
rock	50680	76170	49430	152500
leachate	387.48	8040.53	685.28	5039.00
%	0.76	10.56	1.39	3.31

Ni

Cu

Zn

Cd

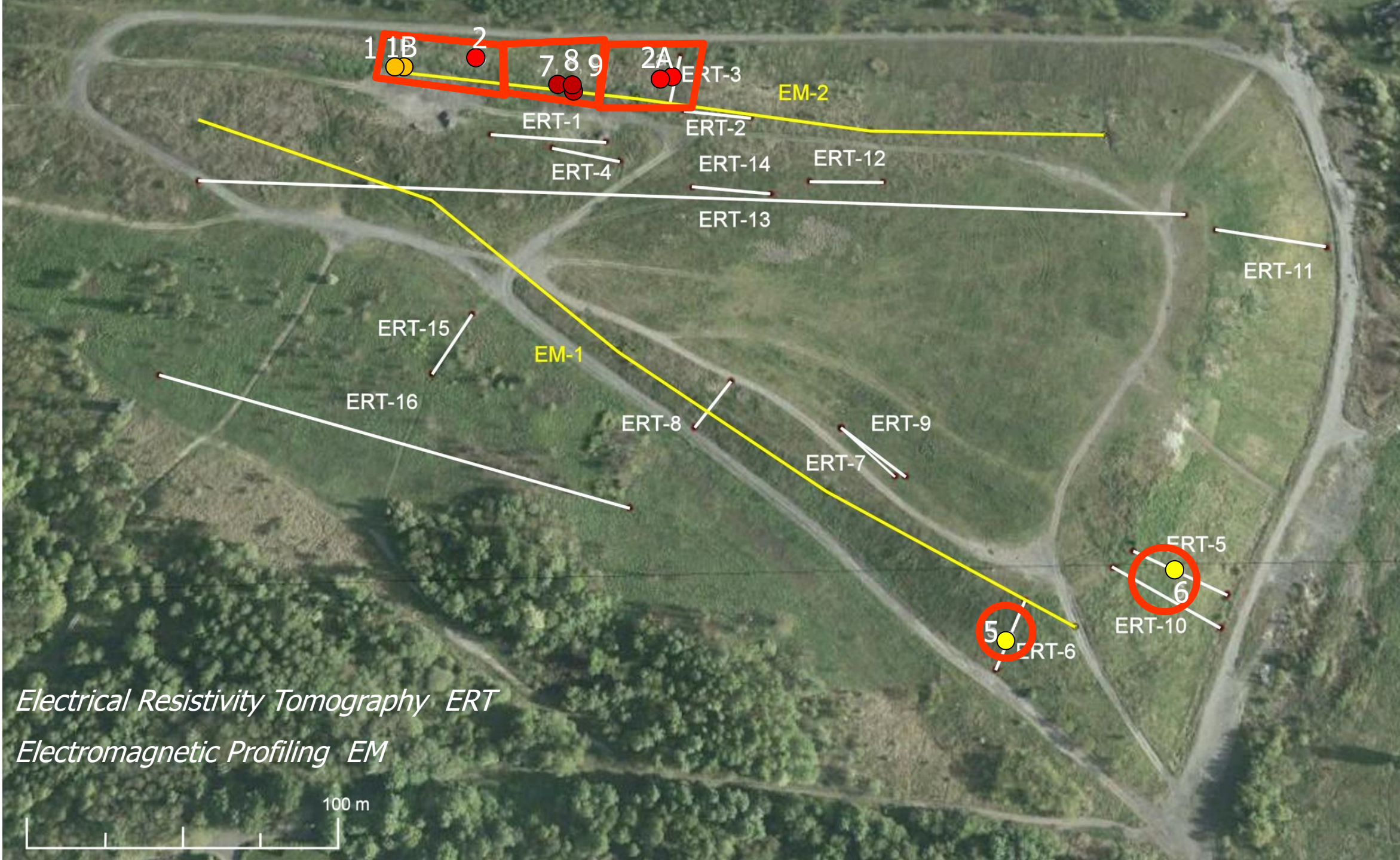
Pb

Co

total

rock	202	277	202	233
leachate	-	0.22	-	-
%	-	0.11	-	-
rock	87	168	78	135
leachate	0.35	0.52	0.63	1.67
%	0.40	0.40	0.90	1.46
rock	82	985	155	81
leachate	0.06	1.49	0.25	0.33
%	0.08	0.22	0.25	0.48
rock	15	25	9	21
leachate	-	-	-	-
rock	31	651	50	27
leachate	-	-	-	-
rock	118	209	115	370
leachate	0.06	0.11	0.15	0.13
%	0.05	0.04	0.12	0.04
rock	534.00	2285.33	607.50	866.33
leachate	0.48	2.31	1.03	2.12
%	0.09	0.10	0.17	0.25

# Geophysics

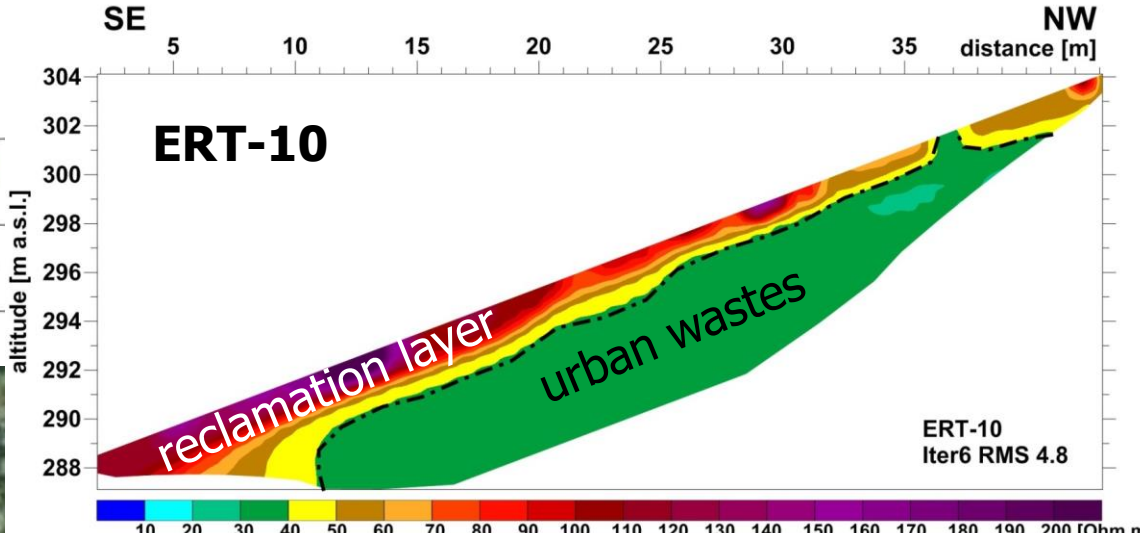
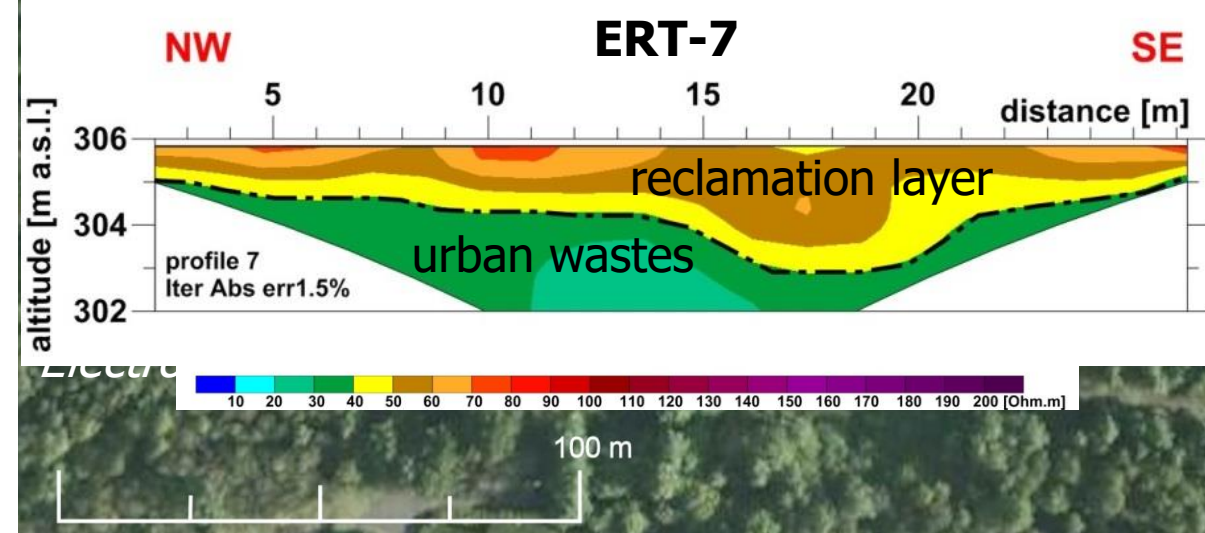
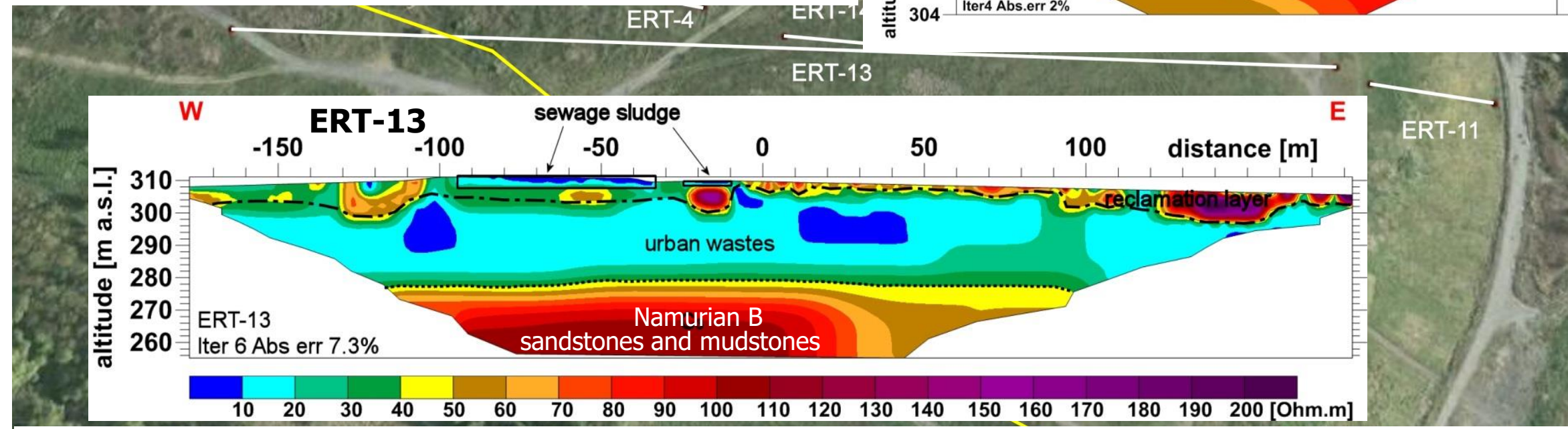
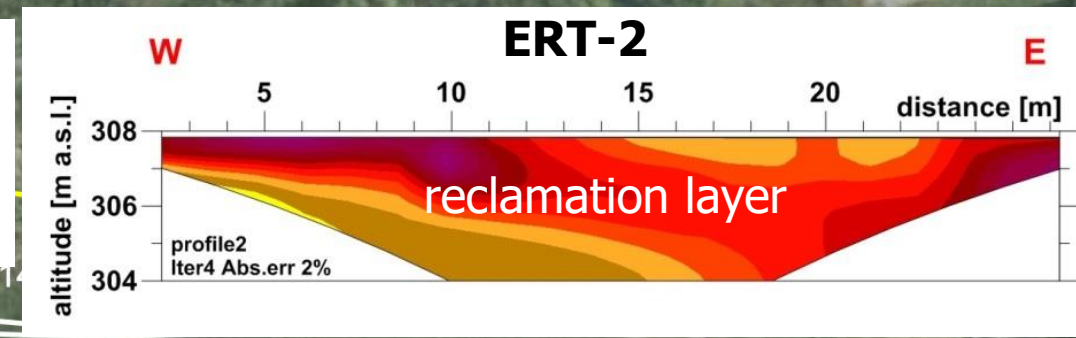
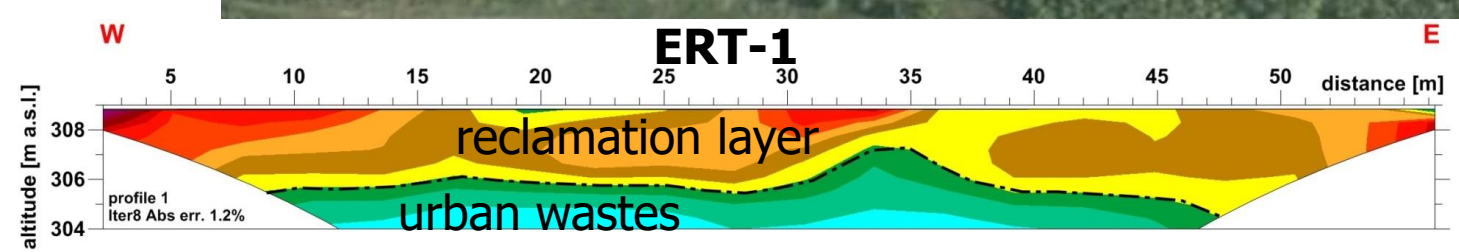


*Electrical Resistivity Tomography ERT*

*Electromagnetic Profiling EM*

100 m

**G  
e  
o  
p  
h  
y  
s  
i  
c  
s**



# Przebieg i przyczyny endogenicznego pożaru węgla kamiennego na zrehabilitowanym składowisku odpadów komunalnych w Katowicach

Justyna Ciesielczuk<sup>1</sup>, Janusz Janeczek<sup>1</sup>, Stefan Cebulak<sup>1</sup>



J. Ciesielczuk J. Janeczek S. Cebulak

**The cause and progress of the endogenous coal fire in the remediated landfill in the city of Katowice.** Prz. Geol., 61: 764–772.

*Abstract.* Slopes of the abandoned municipal waste landfill in the city of Katowice remediated in 1998 have been thermally active since 2007. The thermal activity was caused by spontaneous coal combustion within the sub-surface (0.5–1.5 m below ground level) layer of coal mine waste used for engineering the landfill. Exploitation of biogas from the landfill prior to thermal events may have enhanced exothermic oxidation of coal waste. The smoldering is the prevalent and persistent form of coal combustion in the landfill and is responsible for high emissions of CO (up to 3%),

CO<sub>2</sub> (>18%), methane and a suite of gaseous hydrocarbons. Attempts to extinguish coal fire did not prevent the advance of smoldering front at a rate of tens of metres per year.

**Keywords:** coal waste, smoldering fire, municipal waste landfill, Katowice, Poland



DE GRUYTER  
OPEN

**Environmental & Socio-economic Studies**



DOI: 10.1515/enviropan-2015-0057

Environ. Socio.-econ. Stud., 2015, 3, 2: 1-10

© 2015 Copyright by University of Silesia

Plant occurrence on burning coal waste – a case study from the Katowice-Wełnowiec dump, Poland

Justyna Ciesielczuk, Andrzej Czyłok, Monika J. Fabiańska, Magdalena Misz-Kennan

Faculty of Earth Sciences, University of Silesia, Będzińska Str. 60, 41-200 Sosnowiec, Poland

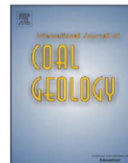
E-mail address (corresponding author): justyna.ciesielczuk@us.edu.pl



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

International Journal of Coal Geology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/coal](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/coal)



Thermal history of coal wastes reflected in their organic geochemistry and petrography; the case study: The Katowice-Wełnowiec dump, Poland



M.J. Fabiańska\*, M. Misz-Kennan, J. Ciesielczuk, J. Pierwoła, N. Nitecka, J. Brzoznowski

University of Silesia, Faculty of Earth Sciences, ul. Będzińska 60, 41-200 Sosnowiec, Poland

## ARTICLE INFO

**Keywords:**  
Self-heating  
Coal waste  
Macerals  
Geochemical markers  
Aromatic hydrocarbons



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

International Journal of Coal Geology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/coal](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/coal)



Structure and thermal history of the Wełnowiec dump, Poland: A municipal dump rehabilitated with coal waste



Pierwoła J.<sup>a</sup>, Ciesielczuk J.<sup>a,\*</sup>, Misz-Kennan M.<sup>a</sup>, Fabiańska M.J.<sup>a</sup>, Bielińska A.<sup>a</sup>, Kruszewski Ł.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Faculty of Earth Sciences, University of Silesia, 60 Będzińska St., PL-41-200 Sosnowiec, Poland

<sup>b</sup> Institute of Geological Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences (ING PAN), 51/55 Twarda St., PL-00-818 Warsaw, Poland

## ARTICLE INFO

**Keywords:**  
Self-heating  
Thermal zones  
Coal wastes  
Electrical resistivity tomography (ERT)  
Conductivity profiling (FDEM)  
Mineralogy  
Geochemistry

## ABSTRACT

The Wełnowiec municipal dump, Katowice, Poland, rehabilitated with coal waste, is self-heating and igniting. This paper presents a novel application of the use of electrical- and resistivity geophysical methods in the investigation of burning coal waste to help explain why the heating occurred. Geoelectrical methods allowed the internal structure of the dump to be revealed, and the municipal wastes and their rehabilitation cover containing coal waste to be differentiated. Instead of a planned 2.2-m-thick multi-barrier system, the cover consists of irregularly distributed material of varying thickness (< 1 to 8 m) and organic carbon content (> 5%). This caused the fire to arise 3–4 years after the coal waste deposition. In areas where the rehabilitation layer is < 3 m thick, a heat tide enabled oxygen access, initiating self-heating. Changes in geochemistry clearly identify stages of

# CONCLUSIONS

- why did the fire start? **5 times exceeded the volume of coal wastes!**
- how does thermal activity influence the chemistry and mineralogy of the wastes and leachates? **strongly!**
- can we apply geophysics to distinguish:
  - municipal and coal wastes **yes**
  - burnt and unburned coal wastes? **no**
- what is a real thickness of coal wastes used for reclamation? **from 1 up to 10 m**
- was the planned multi-barrier system of municipal waste landfill reclamation applied at any part of the Wełnowiec dump? **no**

Geological methods recent stories as well...



April 21, 2023