Potential recovery of by-product metals during the revival of mining in Saxony
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Abstract

Mining in Saxony developed since 1168, when the first silver was discovered in the region of Freiberg and the so called Berggeschrey evolved. In this time miners from all over the country streamed into the miriquidi, the Dark Forest between Saxony and Bohemia, to dig for silver.

In the middle age silver, tin and iron were the most interesting resources in the Erzgebirge mountains, while later between 1947 to 1990 uranium became the most important metallic resource in Saxony. Recently the Berggeschrey in Saxony arises again and focuses currently on copper, tin, wolfram, nickel or fluorspar.

National and also international companies seem to be interested in exploration and economically recovery of metals in the saxon mining region. So beside the lignite mining in Lusatia and the recovery of non-metallic minerals as additives for building materials, metal extraction could become more and more important for the economic structure especially in the Erzgebirge mountains. Advantageous for the saxon mining region are the abundant and excellently prepared exploration data of the resources and a well organized cooperation between the University Freiberg (ahead in mining science), the Geokompetenzzentrum Freiberg e. V., the G.E.O.S. Ingenieurgesellschaft and various highly competent commercial enterprises. Mining activity is coordinated and supported by the mining authorities based on a long traditional and constant work for many centuries.

However, beside new technologies for the extractive industry the sustainable development and recovery of metals as by-products from mining residues gains increasing importance. The Ingenieurgesellschaft G.E.O.S. has developed new aspects for treatment of mine waters accompanied by the recovery of valuables.

Key words: mining history, saxony, by-product metals

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