Residence Time Effects on Metal Sorption Reversibility on Soil

D. G. Strawn and J. C. McCarthy

The fate of Pb in soil has been the subject of intense study for many years. However, few studies have considered the effect of long residence times (aging) on soil-Pb interactions. In this paper the significance of aging on Pb sorption and release from soils and soil components was investigated. The sorption of Pb on soil steadily increased from 1 day to 30 days; further sorption was slow. Lead release from the soil was studied using Cu^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , and EDTA. The studies revealed that Pb release decreased with aging, suggesting that a continuous slow reaction occurs which decreases the availability of the Pb. These findings indicate that aging is an important phenomenon when considering soil-Pb interactions. Such results could have significant impacts on metal mobility and remediation of contaminated soils.