**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** 



# Characterization of metal concentration, heavy metal elution, and desalination behavior of municipal solid waste incineration bottom and grate sifting deposition ash based on particle size

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#### Abstract

Resource and environmental safety protocols of incineration residues were evaluated by analyzing the metal concentration, heavy metal elution, desalination behavior, and chlorine removal ratio owing to particle size differences between bottom ash (BA) and grate sifting deposition ash (GA). In the total content test, Cl, Zn, and Cr in the incinerator BA exceeded the cement acceptance standard (Cl: 1000 mg/kg; Zn: 1700 mg/kg, and Cr: 170 mg/kg) at almost all of the particle sizes, while Au, Ag, Pd, and Zn had high contents in the GA. When using BA as a construction material, heavy metal elution values and contents are restricted as per the product quality standards based on the Japanese soil pollution control law. Lead within the BA and GA exceeded the standard values for most particle sizes. We predicted that there would be a limit on the elution of K by only washing with water. The removal ratio of total chlorine by particle size was approximately 20–70%, where the effect of the particle size on the removal ratio was small, suggesting that the elution of chlorine was complete in approximately 6 hours. These results contribute to information on the recycling of BA and GA.

Keywords Bottom ash  $\cdot$  Grate sifting deposition ash  $\cdot$  Desalination  $\cdot$  Elution  $\cdot$  Sieving

## Introduction

In Japan, the final disposal amount of waste after intermediate treatment has decreased over time [1]. Whether the incineration residues are recycled or disposed of depends on the location of the intermediate treatment facilities, such as cement facilities and disposal sites [2]. Throughout Europe, the recycling of construction materials and metal resources has progressed in recent years by aging and weathering processes [3–5], as well as the physical sorting of municipal solid waste bottom ash [BA] [6–9].

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When incineration residue is used as raw material for the process of preparing cement raw material with limestone, clay, and certain types of by-products or wastes, it is necessary to remove the salts [10], which prompts the use of desalination for fly ash and BA [11] because the leaching concentrations of Cl can induce reinforced steel corrosion in concrete material. However, BA experiences changes in its mineral form due to contact with water in the BA discharge system, which generates insoluble chlorine, known as Friedel's salt (3CaO Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> CaCl<sub>2</sub> 10H<sub>2</sub>O) [12–15], causing major reductions in the desalination efficiency. In addition, the construction of desalination equipment is expensive [2] and requires a large amount of water and wastewater treatment facilities. Thus, it is necessary to reduce the amount of desalination by separating only BA with high chlorine content via sieving and desalination.

In contrast, when using BA as a construction material, heavy metals, such as lead (Pb), are used as per the product quality standards, with reference to the elution test according to Environment Agency Notification No. 46 (JLT46) and the content testing standards according to the Ministry of the Environment Notification No. 19 (JLT19). Heavy metals are regarded as useful resources, not as repelled elements.

In Europe, there have been significant improvements to the technologies used for concentrating and recovering metal resources by physical sorting from BA [7–9]. Through physical sorting, the recovery rate has increased by sieving based on the particle size, allowing for improved metal distribution and material flow [16, 17]. Grate sifting deposition ash (GA) [18], also known as grate siftings [19] or riddling ash [20], is a part of the BA that drops into gaps between the grates of the stoker type incinerator. GA containing a high concentration of useful metal resources is usually mixed with BA; however, in the U.S.A., GA is considered to be separate from BA [19]. In addition to the evaluation of metal resources according to particle size, it is necessary to evaluate the distribution of insoluble chlorine. However, the elemental content of sieved BA, desalination behavior. and evaluations of resources and environmental safety for GA are limited [18–20].

In this study, we focus on sieving, which is the most basic physical sorting technology. By separating and recovering only high-concentration salts and metal resources in the BA, the cost of pretreatment for cement raw material is reduced by reducing the amount of BA desalination, as well as yielding a reduction in the concentration of heavy metals, such as Pb. This will lead to the use of construction materials, recycling metal resources, and a reduction in the amount of the final disposal. This study also clarifies the behavior of metal concentration, elution, desalination, and insoluble chlorine depending on the particle size of the BA and GA, as well as a comprehensive evaluation of resource and environmental safety. As a result, the findings from this study can be used as a basis for examining the optimal resource recycling strategy according to the chemical characteristics of BA and GA.

### **Materials and methods**

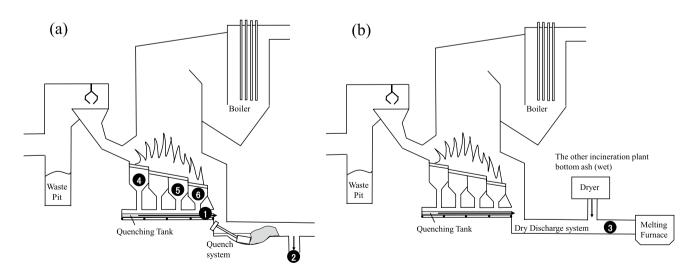
#### Sample analysis

Figure 1 shows two incinerator plants (plants A and B) and the sampling locations. Table 1 summarizes the outline of the survey plants and the analysis samples. The collected amount of each sample was approximately 5 kg. Combustible wastes pass through the drying zone, incinerating zone, and final incinerating zone from the inlet side and are quenched by water in the quench system while the melting furnace remains idle.

In plant A, when the melting furnace did not operate, the quenched BA was landfilled without drying. As the drying zone GA, incinerating zone GA, and final incinerating zone GA were unable to be collected owing to structural problems, water-quenched mixed GA (QGA) (1) was collected.

Table 1 Outline of the research facilities and analysis samples

Plants	Plant A	Plant B
Furnace type	Stoker	Stoker
Melting furnace presence	Presence	Absence
Treatment capacity	250 t/d×2	100 t/d×3
Samples	Fig. 1	Fig. 1
	(1), (2), (3)	(2), (4), (5), (6)



**Fig. 1** Schematic diagrams of the incinerators showing the six sampling locations: (a) plant A when the melting furnace is non-operational and (b) plant A when the melting furnace is operational. Plant A: (1) water-quenched mixed GA (QGA), (2) water-quenched BA (QBA), and (3) mixed BA through the dry-discharge system and the

dried incineration BA once quenched (DDQBA). Plant B: (2) waterquenched BA (QBA), (4) unquenched drying zone GA (UDGA), (5) unquenched incinerating zone GA (UIGA), and (6) unquenched final incinerating zone GA (UFGA)

The BA that contained the mixed GA was quenched (QBA) (2). When the melting furnace operated, BA through the dry-discharge system and BA once quenched through other incineration processes were mixed (DDQBA) (3) and collected. DDQBA was collected immediately before the melting furnace was shut down.

As plant B does not have a melting furnace, there is no dryer. Unquenched drying zone GA (UDGA) (4), unquenched incinerating zone GA (UIGA) (5), unquenched final incinerating zone GA (UFGA) (6), and quenched BA (QBA) (2) were collected. All samples were dried at 80 °C for 2 h, followed by the removal of iron scraps. Samples with all particle sizes and sieved samples (< 0.5, 0.5-2.0, 2.0-4.75, 4.75-9.5, and > 9.5 mm) were reduced with a condensation apparatus, a device for obtaining representative samples for analyses. Total content tests, 1 M hydrochloric acid extraction tests, heavy metal elution tests, and desalination tests were conducted. The 1M hydrochloric acid extraction, heavy metal elution, and desalination tests were conducted at plant A. A QBA value of 4.75 mm or more from plant A was not analyzed because there were insufficient samples.

### **Total content test**

To evaluate repellent elements of the incineration residue for raw materials of cement, as well as a resource evaluation of the incineration residue for metal recovery, the sieved samples were finely pulverized by a high-speed vibration crusher (TI200, CMT), and sieved with an opening of 0.125 mm.

#### Main metal elements and nonmetal elements

Here, Fe, Al, Ca, K, S, P, Si, and Cl of the sieved samples were quantified using a Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence System (XL3t-950S, RIGAKU). The quantification was carried out using the fundamental parameter method. The oxide converted value (excluding Cl) was compared with the acceptance standard for cement raw materialization [21]. All samples were quantified three times and the average value was calculated.

#### **Trace metal element**

Mercury was treated according to the nitric acid-sulfuric acid-potassium permanganate reflux decomposition method reported in the Japanese sediment survey method. A mixture of 10 mL of nitric acid, sulfuric acid (1 + 1), 50 g/L potassium permanganate solution, and 5 mL of potassium peroxodisulfate solution were added to 2.0 g of the crushed sample, heated for 2 h, and cooled. Then, 5 mL of a 100 g/L urea solution and 200 g/L hydroxyl ammonium chloride solution were added, and the solution was filtered using a glass fiber filter. The filtrate was separated and received 0.2 mL of sulfuric acid (1 + 1) and 0.2 mL of a 100 g/L tin (II) chloride solution. The sample was then introduced to a reduced vaporization atomic absorption device (RA-3, Japan Instruments Co., Ltd.). All elements (except Hg) were analyzed according to the temporary analysis method B of rare metals prepared by the Japan Society for Material Cycles and Waste Management [22]. Silver and the other elements were analyzed separately.

For Ag, a 1.0 g sample was moistened with water, the organic substance was decomposed with 1 mL of sulfuric acid and 5 mL of nitric acid and, after drying, 10 mL of 6 M hydrochloric acid was added to the sample before being dissolved through heating. After being filtered through 5B filter paper and washed with 6 M hydrochloric acid, the residue was discarded. The filtrate was adjusted to volume with 6 M hydrochloric acid, and an internal standard substance was added to prepare a test solution.

For elements other than Ag, 1.0 g of each sample was moistened with water; the organic substance was decomposed with 1 mL of sulfuric acid and 5 mL of nitric acid and, after drying, 10 mL of aqua regia was added to each sample before being dissolved through heating. After being filtered through 5B filter paper and washed with warm water, the filtrate was adjusted to volume and 10 mL of aqua regia and an internal standard substance were added to prepare a test solution. The residue was incinerated at approximately 550 °C, cooled, moistened with water, heated until dry using sulfuric and hydrofluoric acid, and then cooled again. The sample was further melted with sodium carbonate and boric acid, cooled, and dissolved by heating with nitric acid (1 +1) to obtain a fixed volume and fractionated sample. Nitric acid (1 + 1) and an internal standard substance were added to prepare a test solution.

For Ag and other elements, the samples were collected twice at plant A and three times at plant B. These samples were analyzed once by via ICP mass spectrometry (7500 and 7700, Agilent Technologies), followed by the determination of their average values.

#### **Elution test**

To examine the possibility of using incineration residues as civil engineering materials, the following elution tests were conducted.

#### 1 M hydrochloric acid extraction test

The incineration residue was analyzed in accordance with the soil content test (JLT19) reported in the Soil Contamination Countermeasures Law in Japan. The elements tested were Pb, Cd, and total Cr. A container holding 6 g of the sample and 200 mL of 1 M hydrochloric acid was shaken at a width of 4–5 cm approximately 200 times/min for 2 h. After standing for 10 min, the mixture was centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 20 min and the supernatant was filtered through a 0.45  $\mu$ m diameter membrane filter to obtain a test solution. The amount of hydrochloric acid extraction was determined three times for each sample using an ICP emission spectrometer (Varian 720-ES, Agilent Technologies), followed by the determination of the average values.

#### Heavy metal elution test

In Japan, the elution test method for evaluating the safety of incineration residues and regenerated products is not defined (except for slags), but it is conventionally performed according to the soil content test (JLT46). This method ensures that soil lumps and aggregates are crushed and passed through a 2 mm sieve, such that it cannot be evaluated for each particle size. In addition, in the crushed sample, the elution amount increases more than that in a realistic environment, such that the original elution amount cannot be evaluated. For these reasons, it is desirable to make an assessment of its original state.

The elution tests were carried out in accordance with the JIS K 0058-1 chemical substance test method for slags-Part 1 elution amount test method 5 in its original state. A 50 g sample was weighed into a 1 L container made of PFTE, and 500 mL of purified water was added to produce a weight volume ratio of 10%. The mixture was stirred at a rotational speed of 200 times/min for 6 h. After centrifugation, the solution was filtered with a 0.45  $\mu$ m membrane filter, and the filtrate was used as a test solution. The amount of elution was quantified for Pb, Cd, and Cr using an ICP emission spectrophotometer (Varian 720-ES, Agilent Technologies). The analysis was carried out three times, followed by the determination of the average values.

#### **Desalination test**

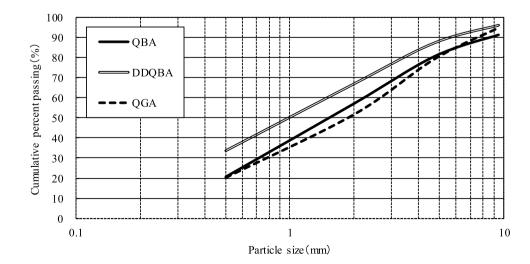
To confirm the desalination effect for each particle size, a desalination test by water elution was carried out for each sieved sample. The desalination test was performed by changing the stirring time to 6, 24, 48, 72, and 168 h for the entire sample with all particle sizes. Sodium,  $K_{,}$  and  $Cl^{-}$  in the eluate were quantified with an ion chromatograph (DX-500, Nippon Dionex Corporation).

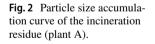
The incineration residue before and after the demineralization test was pulverized by a high speed vibration crusher (TI200, CMT) and was passed through a 0.125 mm sieve. The total Cl was determined by the test for chloride ion content in hardened concrete (JIS A 1154) method, and the soluble Cl was quantified by the quantification of the warm water extracted chloride ion contained in the JIS A 1154 Annex B hardened concrete. The warm water temperature was 50 °C. The total Cl minus the soluble Cl was defined as insoluble chlorine. Each sample was analyzed twice, followed by the calculation of the average values. In addition, minerals, such as insoluble chlorine (Friedel's salt), before and after desalination were identified from the peak at 20 = 11.32°, with a radiation source Cu and a scan rate of 4°/ min using a X-ray diffractometer (RINT-Ultima<sup>+</sup>, Rigaku).

## **Results and discussion**

#### Particle size distribution

QBA showed similar particle size distributions at plants A and B, but GA tended to have a larger weight ratio for the larger particle size at plant B, as compared with plant A (Figs. 2 and 3). The 50% passage diameter (d50) of GA at plant A was approximately 2 mm, while that at plant B was approximately 5.5 mm. The difference in the particle size





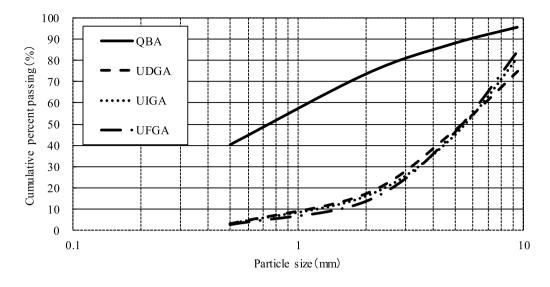


Fig. 3 Particle size accumulation curve of the incineration residue (plant B).

 Table 2
 Criteria for the incineration of ash incineration at cement facilities [21]

Unit: mg/kg	
Analysis items	Acceptance criteria
Cl	< 1000
K <sub>2</sub> O	< 20,000
SO <sub>3</sub>	<30,000
$P_2O_5$	<50,000
TiO <sub>2</sub>	<20,000
Pb	< 1000
Cu	< 1300
Zn	< 1700
Cd	< 20
Cr	< 170
Hg	< 1

distribution of the GA is considered to be due to the size of the air jet or gap between the grate. In addition, the distribution at plant B between the GA collection zones was similar.

#### **Total content test**

The total content test data can be partially described as oxide according to the acceptance criteria for cement raw material production [21] (Table 2). Each cement plant has its own acceptance criteria, including for BA, but these data are not usually published. Several studies considering BA recycling have presented the acceptance criteria for BA. As the raw material composition of the cement plant depends on the amount of waste and by-products, other than the incineration residue and chemical composition, the acceptance criteria are not an absolute standard value, but are a guideline.

For the use of BA for cement raw materials, we first focused on QBA, which is a common sample from both plants A and B (Table 3). For Pb, Cu, and Zn, although the particle size range was slightly different, plant A showed almost the same content as the data from previous studies, while plant B showed the same or slightly higher content [23]. Chlorine almost exceeded the acceptance criteria (= 1000 mg/kg) for most particle sizes, where the content tended to be highest for the small particle size of  $\leq 2.0$  mm. There were also indications that the acceptance criteria for Cl are too strict [21]. For K<sub>2</sub>O, the difference in content due to the particle size was small and similar to the acceptance criteria, such that it may be greatly exceeded depending on variations in the samples. For SO<sub>3</sub>, the content at the small particle size of  $\leq 2.0$  mm in plant B for QBA is high and near the acceptance criteria, but it is significant below the acceptance criteria at the large particle size of > 2.0 mm. Both  $P_2O_5$  and TiO<sub>2</sub> were below the acceptance criteria for both particle sizes. Both Zn and Cr exceeded the acceptance criteria at most particle sizes, while Cd and Hg were below the acceptance criteria for all particle sizes.

Precious metals and main base metals were examined from the perspective of recovering useful metals in GA (Table 4), as compared with QBA (Table 3). Care must be taken when handling data because of the large overall variation. For example, in QGA, two specimens were analyzed

Table 3 Total	Table 3 Total content of QBA															
Unit: mg/kg																
Plant	Particle size (mm)	Av/SD	CI	$\mathbf{K}_{2}\mathbf{O}$	$SO_3$	$P_2O_5$	$\operatorname{TiO}_2$	Pb	Cu	Zn	Cd	C	Hg	Pd	Ν	Ag
A	< 0.5	Av	19,000	8900	11,000	19,000	14,000	170	1400	3100	8	710	0.033	< 0.09	< 6 <	6.6
		SD	1400	1800	600	1900	930	91	360	550	9.3	53	0.021			1.1
	0.5-2.0	Av	12,000	16,000	8000	22,000	17,000	140	2900	4600	1.8	610	0.011	< 0.09	< 6 <	9.2
		SD	310	2300	700	730	78	90	1600	2000	1.3	62	0.001			5.4
	2.0-4.75	Av	0069	17,000	5700	30,000	15,000	190	4400	6100	2.2	520	0.011	< 0.09	< 6 <	3.7
		SD	810	360	850	4800	530	130	2300	460	2.7	48	0.006			0.49
	4.75–9.5	Av	3900	14,000	8000	39,000	11,000	1000	31,000	19,000	0.31	660	0.005	0.24	< 6 <	5.8
		SD	110	570	3000	16,000	37	1200	25,000	1400	0.36	480	0.0004			2.7
	> 9.5	Av	1400	16,000	2200	3000	3300	250	1600	1600	14	130	0.005	< 0.09	9 >	< 2.0
		SD	220	460	320	4400	130	340	1700	1500		5.2	0.005			
В	< 0.5	Av	16,000	18,000	27,000	30,000	18,000	350	2200	4300	15	300	0.011	0.93	9 ×	19
		SD	1300	880	3500	1000	1800	12	330	600	3.9	24	0.007			7.8
	0.5-2.0	Av	10,000	23,000	15,000	27,000	14,000	580	5400	6800	20	290	0.17	0.49	9 >	22
		SD	1000	720	2700	2100	1800	40	1200	066	9.2	37	0.28	0.2		2.6
	2.0-4.75	Av	3800	22,000	9500	17,000	8300	1500	12,000	12,000	3.1	210	0.004	0.097	9 >	18
		SD	1100	069	1600	1100	800	750	4600	2700	1	57	0.004			19
	4.75-9.5	Av	1500	20,000	950	2200	5300	420	4400	3300	3.9	1700	0.006	0.1	9 ×	6.4
		SD	1000	920	1600	3900	780	300	2900	1100	3.6	2400				
	> 9.5	Av	920	28,000			4500	330	1400	2100	2.1	81	0.01	< 0.09	9 >	< 2.0
		SD	1600	1700			520	230	1800	1700	2.1	37	0.014			
Data for whic instrument. Co	Data for which all samples are less than the lower limit of quantification are displayed as < lower limit of quantitation. The SD of the data is blank. Blank data: not detected by the analytical instrument. Cement components K, S, P, and Ti are converted to oxides in accordance with the acceptance criteria in Table 2. Av arithmetic mean, SD standard deviation	han the low , P, and Ti	ver limit of a	quantificati	ion are disp s in accorda	layed as < nce with th	lower limit e acceptanc	of quanti e criteria	tation. The in Table 2.	SD of the <i>Av</i> arithme	data is b tic mean,	lank. Blai SD stand	nk data: no lard deviati	t detected l on	by the a	ıalytical

Unit: mg/kg Plant	Samples	Particle size(mm)	Av/SD	Pb	Cu	Zn	Cd	Cr	Hg	Pd	Au	Ag
A	QGA	< 0.5	Av	650	4900	6400	9.9	480	1.5	0.14	< 6	12
			SD	290	900	1400	9.1	81	1.8	0.028		0.71
		0.5-2.0	Av	1700	18,000	17,000	38	470	4.2	0.26	< 6	19
			SD	1100	23	4100	48	23	5.9			7.1
		2.0-4.75	Av	640	43,000	54,000	4.1	370	0.059	0.17	< 6	9.7
			SD	37	28,000	13,000	4.8	16	0.026	0.078		6.2
		4.75–9.5	Av	1000	80,000	53,000	8	350	0.091	0.11	< 6	9.3
			SD	1300	93,000	54,000	3.9	62	0.098	0.021		2.4
		> 9.5	Av	6900	11,000	41,000	3.5	420	0.18	< 0.09	< 6	16
			SD	9700	13,000	48,000	4.9	13	0.24			
В	UDGA	< 0.5	Av	14,000	7800	16,000	470	460	0.41	0.16	11	36
			SD	11,000	3200	5000	360	29	0.46			27
		0.5-2.0	Av	25,000	16,000	25,000	72	1700	0.061	0.1	< 6	58
			SD	16,000	5300	4800	61	2300	0.086			62
		2.0-4.75	Av	12,000	28,000	30,000	17	360	0.009	< 0.09	< 6	7.6
			SD	4800	23,000	13,000	9.6	230	0.006			
		4.75-9.5	Av	5500	19,000	34,000	1.5	150	0.003	< 0.09	< 6	24
			SD	8900	8800	24,000	0.39	100				
		> 9.5	Av	3800	2300	14,000	1.9	690		< 0.09	< 6	46
			SD	6300	2000	15,000		440				
	UIGA	< 0.5	Av	14,000	25,000	23,000	230	570	0.37	0.26	7.3	68
			SD	10,000	21,000	8400	260	340	0.18	0.1		23
		0.5-2.0	Av	21,000	48,000	80,000	230	540	0.015	0.6	< 6	62
			SD	16,000	40,000	49,000	200	550	0.006			8.1
		2.0-4.75	Av	10,000	46,000	45,000	13	1100	0.017	0.56	< 6	28
			SD	2200	42,000	49,000	12	1400	0.014			20
		4.75-9.5	Av	4900	3300	47,000	2.7	1600		< 0.09	< 6	230
			SD	4100	1900	55,000		2600				
		> 9.5	Av	30,000	46,000	73,000	2.3	81	0.007	< 0.09	< 6	4.2
			SD	37,000	77,000	120,000		74	0.004			
	UFGA	< 0.5	Av	7800	16,000	25,000	84	420	0.47	0.82	57	240
			SD	2500	6200	14,000	91	330	0.72	0.32		120
		0.5-2.0	Av	8500	48,000	71,000	33	150	0.014	17	29	820
			SD	3000	19,000	27,000	39	31	0.01	29		1300
		2.0-4.75	Av	5900	21,000	45,000	12	160		< 0.09	< 6	18
			SD	2500	21,000	59,000	5.2	73				8.9
		4.75–9.5	Av	1500	7600	52,000	3.9	180		< 0.09	< 6	36
			SD	1100	7200	64,000	0.83	63			< 6 < 6 < 6 < 6 < 11 < 6 < 6 < 6 < 6 < 7.3	55
		> 9.5	Av	110	1300	53,000	0.35	390	0.018	< 0.09	< 6	3.9
			SD	44	2000	75,000		510	0.029			

Data for which all samples are less than the lower limit of quantification are displayed as < lower limit of quantitation. The SD of the data is blank. Blank data: not detected by the analytical instrument. Av arithmetic mean, SD standard deviation

for Pb at sizes of  $\geq 9.5$  mm, one of which was significantly different from the other; in other words, one was 13,700 mg/kg, while the other was 34 mg/kg. For Au, the content of UDGA, UIGA, and UFGA at  $\leq 0.5$  mm was higher than in QBA, where its content exceeded the quality of general

gold ore in plant B. For Ag, the content of any BA and GA was high at particle sizes of  $\leq 0.5$  mm or 0.5–2.0 mm, while the content of UFGA was more than 10-fold higher than QBA. In plant B, the Pd in UFGA was also more than 10-fold higher than QBA at a particle size of 0.5–2.0 mm.

In addition, Zn was 10-fold higher than the QBA in UIGA and UFGA when compared with the 0.5–2.0 mm particle size in plant B. Although the particle size range was slightly different, the Pb in QGA in plant A was lower than that of a previous study, while Zn was similar or slightly lower [18].

Although many metal elements have been reported to have high concentrations in small particle sizes [24–26], this was not the case for Cu, Pb, and Zn. Compared with previous studies on municipal solid waste incinerators [23], the Pb, Cu, Zn, Cd, Cr, and Ag contents in QBA contained almost the same magnitude, whereas the contents of Cu and Zn for the 2.0–4.75 mm fraction in plant A were higher than those of previous studies [23]. Additional information on other elements and samples are reported in the Appendix.

Figure 4 shows the element distribution obtained from the particle size accumulation curves in Figs. 2 and 3 and the total content by particle size in Tables 3, 4, 10 and 11 (see Appendix). Figure 4 focuses on the elements listed in the cement acceptance criteria in Table 2 [21]. Among these elements (Tables 3, 4), the data for precious metals, harmful metals, and main base metals exceeded the lower limit of quantification. In plant A, QBA, DDQBA, and QGA showed no significant difference in distribution ratio, whereas, in plant B, GA tended to be distributed in larger particle sizes in QBA and QGA. This is because the particle size distribution was relatively similar (d50 = 1-2 mm) among QBA, DDQBA, and QGA in plant A (Fig. 2), whereas, for QBA and GA (Fig. 3), GA had a larger weight ratio for the large particle sizes (d50 = 5.5 mm).

By element, we confirmed that Cl, SO<sub>3</sub>, Cd, Cr, and Hg tend to be easily distributed in the small particle size fraction of  $\leq 2.0$  mm in plant A incineration residue.

#### **Elution test**

Table 5 lists the results of the 1M hydrochloric acid extraction test and heavy metal elution test for Pb, Cd, and Cr in incineration residue of plant A.

#### 1 M hydrochloric acid extraction test

The standard value of the 1 M hydrochloric acid extraction test in Japan is 150 mg/kg for both Pb and Cd and 250 mg/ kg for Cr (VI). For Pb, QBA and DDQBA at  $\leq$  4.75 mm and QGA at  $\leq$  9.5 mm exceeded the standard values. For QBA and QGA, Cd was lower than the standard value, but the overall trend was high for samples with a small particle size of  $\leq$  2.0 mm. In addition, the hydrochloric acid extraction amount for QGA tended to be higher than that for QBA and DDQBA. In contrast to Pb and Cd, the Cr in QGA was lower than that for QBA and DDQBA. In addition, we confirmed that the elution amount tended to increase with a decrease in the particle size.

Fig. 4 Element distribution behavior of the incineration residue. A and B indicate plant names. Blank lines indicate that the distribution ratio was not calculated because it was not analyzed or contained content data below the lower limit of quantification

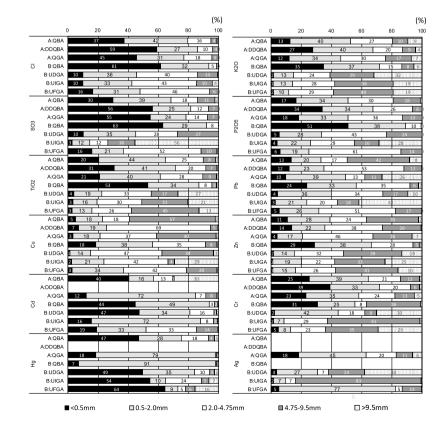


Table 5 Elution test results

(plant A)

Sample type	Particle size (mm)	Extracti (mg/kg)		with 1 M HCl	Heavy n amount	netal elutic (µg/L)	on
		Pb	Cd	Cr	Pb		Cr
QBA	< 0.5	430	2.4	96	81	< 1	580
	0.5-2.0	260	1.5	71	36	< 1	440
	2.0-4.75	230	< 0.1	56	< 14	< 1	420
DDQBA	< 0.5	410	3	150	280	< 1	240
	0.5-2.0	380	< 0.1	91	210	t (µg/L) Cd < 1 < 1 < 1 < 1 < 1 < 1 < 1 < 1	290
	2.0-4.75	400	< 0.1	65	< 14		100
	4.75-9.5	18	< 0.1	62	50	< 1	270
	> 9.5	< 5	< 0.1	9.1	110	< 1	32
QGA	< 0.5	5600	17	62	2600	< 1	54
	0.5-2.0	2100	23	35	3600	< 1	38
	2.0-4.75	180	12	22	170	Cd           < 1	120
	4.75–9.5	170	< 0.1	13	17	< 1	18
	> 9.5	< 5	< 0.1	< 0.01	< 14	< 1	16

 Table 6
 Results of the desalination test by particle size (plant A)

Unit: mg/L			
Sample type	Particle size (mm)	Na	Κ
QBA	< 0.5	340	39
	0.5-2.0	200	18
	2.0-4.75	130	11
DDQBA	< 0.5	190	44
	0.5-2.0	80	35
	2.0-4.75	54	16
	4.75-9.5	17	7.6
	> 9.5	36	34
QGA	< 0.5	67	33
	0.5-2.0	29	6.9
	2.0-4.75	23	4.6
	4.75-9.5	10	2.8
	> 9.5	4.3	2.2

#### Table 7 Results of the desalination test by desalination time (plant A)

Unit: mg/L			
Sample type	Desalination	time (h) Na	К
QBA	6	73	29
	24	110	42
	48	86	41
	72	100	48
	168	110	55
QGA	6	30	8.0
	24	34	8.9
	48	38	13
	72	39	19
	168	39	15

#### **Desalination test**

#### Na and K

For both Na and K, the amount of elution on the small particle size fraction was larger, while the amount of elution was higher in DDQBA than in QGA. For K, the elution ratio (= elution amount/total content) was higher for smaller particle sizes in samples collected on the same day (Table 6). This suggests that elution is likely to occur on the particle surface owing to the large surface area. The elution ratio of K was approximately 5% for DDQBA and QBA at  $\leq 0.5$  mm and approximately 4% for QGA.

For both Na and K, the elution amount increased with an increase in the desalination time. We confirmed that the elution amount converged to a constant concentration. The elution ratio of K was approximately 5% even after 168 h (Table 7). Although salts, such as Na and K, are eluted from

#### Heavy metal elution test

The slag elution standard value was the same as the standard value in the JLT46. The values of Pb and Cd were 10  $\mu$ g/L, while Cr (VI) was 50  $\mu$ g/L. Lead exceeded the standard values for most particle sizes and incineration residues. Although the variation in Cr was large, we confirmed that an overall smaller particle size resulted in a larger elution amount. All Cd values were less than the lower limit of quantification (1  $\mu$ g/L).

Unit: % Sample type	Particle size(mm)	Soluble chlorine	Je		Insoluble chlorine	ine		Total chlorine		
		Before desali- nation	After desali- nation	Removal ratio	Before desali- nation	After desali- nation	Removal ratio	Before desali- nation	After desali- nation	Removal ratio
QBA	< 0.5	0.97	0.31	68.0	0.81	0.63	22.2	1.78	0.94	47.2
	0.5 - 2.0	0.61	0.23	62.3	0.42	0.34	19.0	1.03	0.57	44.7
	2.0-4.75	0.42	0.12	71.4	0.24	0.19	20.8	0.66	0.31	53.0
DDQBA	< 0.5	0.55	0.15	72.7	0.52	0.43	17.3	1.07	0.58	45.8
	0.5 - 2.0	0.28	0.10	64.3	0.16	0.21	I	0.44	0.31	29.5
	2.0-4.75	0.14	0.056	60.0	0.14	0.11	21.4	0.28	0.17	39.3
	4.75–9.5	0.064	0.024	62.5	0.076	0.074	2.6	0.14	0.098	30.0
	> 9.5	0.014	0.009	35.7	0.008	0.015	I	0.022	0.024	I
QGA	< 0.5	0.31	0.19	38.7	0.38	0.34	10.5	0.69	0.53	23.2
	0.5 - 2.0	0.086	0.044	48.8	0.144	0.12	16.7	0.23	0.16	30.4
	2.0-4.75	0.067	0.028	58.2	0.103	0.092	10.7	0.17	0.12	29.4
	4.75–9.5	0.038	0.033	13.2	0.040	0.17	I	0.078	0.20	I
	> 9.5	0.036	0.007	80.6	0.015	0.008	46.7	0.051	0.015	70.6
Unit: % Sample type	Before/after desalination	lination		Soluble chlorine		Insoluble	Insoluble chlorine	T	Total chlorine	
				Content	Removal ratio	Content	Removal ratio		Content	Removal ratio
DDQBA	Before desalination	uc		0.25		0.27	. 1	0.	0.52	I
	After desalination	ſ	6h	0.089	64.4	0.17	37.0	0.	0.26	50.0
			24h	0.092	63.2	0.20	25.9	0.	0.29	44.2
			48h	0.066	73.6	0.15	44.4	0.	0.22	57.7
			72h	0.10	60.0	0.19	29.6	0.	0.29	44.2
			168h	0.068	72.8	0.18	33.3	0.	0.25	51.9
QGA	Before desalination	uc		0.084	I	0.21	I	0.	0.29	I
	After desalination		6h	0.043	48.8	0.097	53.8	0.	0.14	51.7
			24h	0.038	54.8	0.082	61.0	0.	0.12	58.6
			48h	0.035	58.3	0.075	64.3	0.	0.11	62.1
			72h	0.039	53.6	0.10	52.4	0.	0.14	51.7
			168h	0.023	72.6	0.063	70.0	0.	0.086	70.3

the surface in the same manner as other heavy metals, it is possible that there is a limit to the amount of elution from ordinary water washing.

#### Cl

The removal ratio of soluble chlorine was approximately 10-80%, the removal ratio of insoluble chlorine was approximately 0-50%, and the removal ratio of total chlorine was approximately 20-70% (Table 8). The relationship between the size of the diameter and the removal ratio was not confirmed.

With the exception of DDQBA ( $\geq 9.5 \text{ mm}$ ) and QGA (4.75–9.5 mm), where the total chlorine content was low before desalination, we found that decreasing the content to the acceptance criteria of 1000 mg/kg (= 0.1%) (Table 4), based only on water desalination for all particle sizes, is difficult.

In contrast, with the desalination time (Table 9), the removal ratio of soluble chlorine was approximately 50–70%, the removal ratio of insoluble chlorine was approximately 30–70%, and the removal ratio of total chlorine was approximately 40–70%, suggesting that the elution of chlorine was almost complete in approximately 6 h.

Soluble chlorine appeared to remain after desalination (Tables 8, 9). This may be due to the presence of chlorine compounds that elute at 50 °C, although soluble chlorine is chlorine that can be extracted at 50 °C and does not elute at room temperature (approximately 20 °C) in this experiment.

Quartz (SiO<sub>2</sub>), calcite (CaCO<sub>3</sub>), and gehlenite (Ca<sub>2</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>7</sub>) were detected in almost all of the samples. Friedel's salt (3CaO Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> CaCl<sub>2</sub> 10H<sub>2</sub>O) was detected in DDQBA and QBA at  $\leq$  0.5, 0.5–2.0, and 2.0–4.75 mm before and after desalination. Although QGA is not shown, the detected mineral and peak intensity were almost identical to DDQBA and QBA. In DDQBA, QBA, and QGA, Friedel's salt was present in the small particle size fraction before desalination, but the peak intensity decreased after desalination (Figs. 5 and 6).

Based on Friedel's salt peak intensity for QBA (Fig. 6), some particle sizes were less than half after desalination compared with that before desalination, which is inconsistent with the slight removal ratio of insoluble chlorine (Table 8). One possibility is that this reflects insoluble chlorrine, not only in the form of Friedel's salt but also as new insoluble chlorine, such as AlOC1, as pointed out by Wu et al. [27]. In summary, although the content of Friedel's salt was less than half, new stable AlOC1 was generated, which may have resulted in a slight overall decrease in the insoluble chlorine. However, as AlOC1 is close to the diffraction angle of Friedel's salt and its peak intensity is small, it cannot be identified in this analysis.

If insoluble chlorine decomposes, previous studies have proposed that another mineral forms in its place. Ito et al. [15] suggested that Friedel's salt (3CaO Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> CaCl<sub>2</sub> 10H<sub>2</sub>O) decomposes and produces CaCO<sub>3</sub> and Al(OH)<sub>3</sub> in the presence of  $CO_2$ . If this reaction progresses, the peak of CaCO<sub>3</sub> should increase after desalination, such that we can detect the peak of  $CaCl_2 \cdot Al (OH)_3$ . However, no such behavior was observed at any particle size, and the cause could not be identified. Portlandite (Ca (OH)<sub>2</sub>) was detected in the relatively small particle size fraction of DDQBA, QBA, and QGA. Annette et al. [28] reported that oxide lime (CaO) in bottom ash reacts in water to form an alkaline solution and increase pH. Here, we suggest that Ca (OH)<sub>2</sub> was generated in the small particle size fraction with a large surface area in DDQBA, QBA, and QGA during the quenching process.

All of the incineration residues showed a high pH exceeding 12 for the small particle size fraction of  $\leq 2.0$  mm, suggesting that OH<sup>-</sup> was eluted from Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 7). Therefore, we suggest that the reason that Friedel's salt exhibited difficulties for decomposition in the small particle size fraction was the high pH.

## Conclusions

In this study, we evaluated the resource and environmental safety by clarifying the behavior of the metal concentration, elution, desalination, and insoluble chlorine owing to the differences in the particle sizes of BA and GA. Based on the results, we can draw the following conclusions.

- (1) Chlorine, Zn, and Cr exceeded the cement acceptance standard in almost all particle sizes. In plant B, the content of Au, Ag, Pd, and Zn in GA was high for the small particle size fraction of  $\leq 2.0$  mm compared with QBA. In terms of the element distribution, we confirmed that Cl, SO<sub>3</sub>, Cd, Cr, and Hg tended to be relatively distributed in the small particle size fraction of  $\leq 2.0$ .
- (2) Most particle sizes for Pb in DDQBA, QBA, and QGA exceeded the standard value in the JLT46. Cadmium met the requirements for all particle sizes in QBA, DDQBA, and QGA. For Cr, there was a tendency for smaller particle sizes to result in larger elution amounts.
- (3) Both Na and K showed a large amount of elution for small particle sizes. We confirmed that a large surface area resulted in the occurrence of desalination on the particle surface. For the elution amount of the entire sample via time, both Na and K increased with an increase in the desalination time, but K had a desalination ratio of approximately 5% even after 168 h, sug-

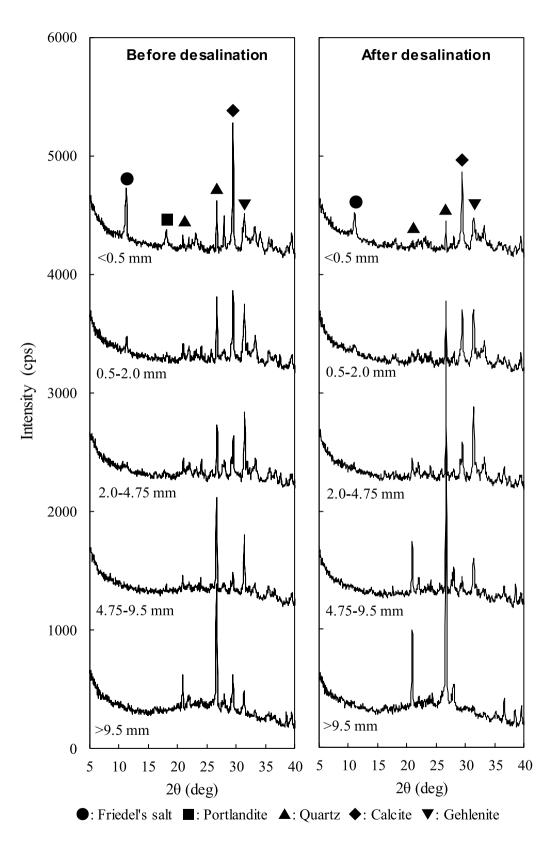


Fig. 5 X-ray diffraction chart of DDQBA by particle size before and after desalination (plant A).

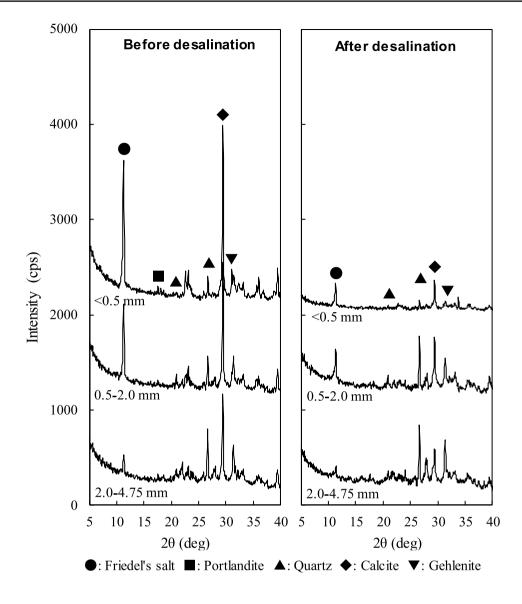


Fig. 6 X-ray diffraction chart of QBA by particle size before and after desalination (plant A)

gesting that there was a limit to the amount of desalination based only on water washing.

(4) The removal ratio of soluble chlorine by particle size was approximately 10–80%, the removal ratio of insoluble chlorine was approximately 0–50%, and the removal ratio of total chlorine was approximately 20–70%. There was no relationship between the particle size and removal ratio. The chlorine removal ratio by desalination was approximately 50–70% for soluble chlorine, approximately 30–70% for insoluble chlorine, and approximately 40–70% for total chlorine, suggesting that chlorine elution is almost complete in 6 h.

Attempts were made to comprehensively evaluate the resource and environmental safety by analyzing the metal

concentration, elution/desalination behavior, and chlorine removal ratio due to particle size differences in BA and GA. We note that the variation in the content data is large, and the element content varies depending on the plant. However, there is little knowledge on the content of GA, elution, and desalination behavior. In particular, from a metal content perspective, it is important to separate and discharge GA with high concentrations of useful and heavy metals from BA in the incineration facility to increase the recycling amount of BA and GA. We expect that our results will be utilized for future incineration residue recycling. Technological developments and cost evaluations of processes that combine the removal of Cl and the recovery/removal of valuable/hazardous metals in BA or

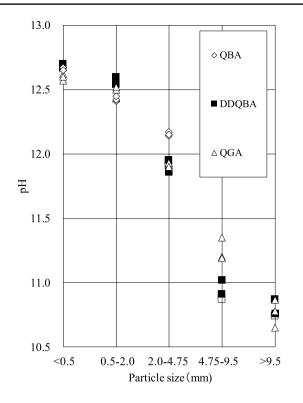


Fig. 7 Eluate pH by particle size (plant A)

GA according to particle size are necessary to promote the recycling of incineration residues in future studies.

**Acknowledgments** We appreciate the local governments for their cooperation in providing incineration bottom and grate sifting deposition ash samples.

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## Appendix

See Tables 10, 11.

Unit: mg/kg															
Plant	Samples	Particle size(mm)	Av/SD	$SiO_2$	$Al_2O_3$	CI	$K_2O$	$SO_3$	$P_2O_5$	$TiO_2$	Pb	Cu	Zn	Cd	Cr
A	DDQBA	< 0.5	Av	140,000	45,000	14,000	11,000	16,000	25,000	12,000	340	2800	4800	7.8	096
			SD	17,000	10,000	2200	860	2300	4600	5800	38	1000	54	1.7	280
		0.5 - 2.0	Av	280,000	59,000	6400	16,000	7200	25,000	16,000	670	7400	7600	36	810
			SD	4100	4500	950	860	1700	920	2000	180	3600	970	50	130
		2.0-4.75	Av	360,000	57,000	4000	13,000	5500	32,000	13,000	2500	45,000	22,000	< 0.006	830
			SD	5400	7700	1400	360	87	850	450	400	45,000	8500		520
		4.75–9.5	Av	430,000	45,000	3500	13,000	7500	18,000	11,000	1300	7400	34,000	< 0.006	560
			SD	34000	11,000	2800	660	2700	7600	82	1500	7600	17000		460
		> 9.5	Av	510,000	57,000	120	16,000			4500	83	2300	2000	< 0.006	390
			SD	34,000	7900	170	2400			130	99	520	300		13
	QGA	< 0.5	Av	140,000	34,000	13,000	9300	18,000	13,000	12,000					
			SD	18,000	700	2800	570	3000	270	620					
		0.5 - 2.0	Av	320,000	55,000	5800	17,000	5000	15,000	15,000					
			SD	12,000	4200	1200	2900	400	480	1800					
		2.0-4.75	Av	390,000	55,000	3900	17,000	3500	19,000	12,000					
			SD	21,000	7200	1300	4200	800	6200	1200					
		4.75–9.5	Av	470,000	47,000	1700	17,000	3200	12,000	6800					
			SD	51,000	1000	430	1000	1200	760	1400					
		> 9.5	Av	430,000	72,000	220	22,000			3300					
			SD	32,000	28,000	300	1200			1100					
Data for which instrument. Ce	h all samples ment compo	Data for which all samples are less than the lower limit of quantification are displayed as < lower limit of quantitation. The SD of the data is blank. Blank data: not detected by the analytical instrument. Cement components K, S, P, and Ti are converted to oxides in accordance with the acceptance criteria in Table 2.	ar limit of qure converted	uantification a to oxides in	are displaye accordance	d as < low with the act	tification are displayed as $<$ lower limit of quantitation. The oxides in accordance with the acceptance criteria in Table 2.	quantitation iteria in Tal	. The SD of ole 2.	f the data is	s blank. B	lank data: 1	not detected	d by the ana	lytical
	-						-								

 Table 10
 Total content of incineration residue (plant A)

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Av arithmetic mean, SD standard deviation

Unit: mg/kg									·	
Plant	Samples	Particle size(mm)	Av/SD	$SiO_2$	$Al_2O_3$	Cl	K <sub>2</sub> O	SO <sub>3</sub>	$P_2O_5$	TiO <sub>2</sub>
В	UDGA	< 0.5	Av	100,000	25,000	12,000	11,000	11,000	9900	16,000
			SD	100,000	30,000	11,000	9600	12,000	9200	5800
		0.5-2.0	Av	320,000	42,000	9100	18,000	8000	11,000	17,000
			SD	45,000	2300	2100	720	1800	2200	6300
		2.0-4.75	Av	450,000	43,000	5200	17,000	3200	8500	15,000
			SD	47,000	3400	1300	1600	2700	7600	4800
		4.75-9.5	Av	560,000	45,000	1600	19,000	3000	4400	7500
			SD	32,000	10,000	470	4000	1300	3000	4700
		> 9.5	Av	580,000	74,000	130	25,000			14,000
			SD	21,000	11,000	120	4700			9800
	UIGA	< 0.5	Av	100,000	26,000	9600	10,000	9000	9400	12,000
			SD	90,000	23,000	8300	8900	8700	8200	6200
		0.5-2.0	Av	340,000	57,000	6900	19,000	8000	11,000	12,000
			SD	5800	7700	1600	350	2700	2700	1700
		2.0-4.75	Av	450,000	53,000	4400	20,000	4000	7100	11,000
			SD	36,000	5300	1100	610	3700	7600	2200
		4.75–9.5	Av	560,000	49,000	740	19,000	4200	2700	7800
			SD	60,000	4900	370	90	870	4800	4300
		> 9.5	Av	470,000	74,000	660	20,000	27,000	10,000	11,000
			SD	170,000	5100	790	9000	47,000	18,000	10,000
	UFGA	< 0.5	Av	180,000	40,000	9600	14,000	17,000	12000	11,000
			SD	47,000	9800	2500	3600	3200	4100	7500
		0.5-2.0	Av	390,000	53,000	4100	19,000	5000	8700	12,000
			SD	24,000	3400	1400	420	4200	8500	5000
		2.0-4.75	Av	470,000	51,000	2200	20,000	4500	10,000	8700
			SD	90,000	12,000	1600	1400	5000	11,000	2500
		4.75–9.5	Av	580,000	59,000	210	20,000	670	1700	11,000
			SD	62,000	16,000	270	4300	1200	3000	6000
		> 9.5	Av	580,000	83,000		25,000	220		8500
			SD	13,000	7600		2700	370		5700

 Table 11
 Total content of incineration residue (plant B)

Data for which all samples are less than the lower limit of quantification are displayed as < lower limit of quantitation. The SD of the data is blank. Blank data: not detected by the analytical instrument

Av arithmetic mean, SD standard deviation

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