

Special Issue

Critical Metal Minerals in Coal, 2nd Edition

Message from the Guest Editors

Critical minerals yield elements that have unique material properties and are irreplaceable in critical applications such as in the areas of energy, information technology. The themes of the Special Issue are as follows: Theme 1: Metallogenic mechanisms and occurrence characteristics of critical metals in coal with a focus on genetic processes (e.g., hydrothermal fluid interactions and sedimentary controls) and microscopic occurrence states (e.g., organic/inorganic associations). Submissions detailing new geological evidence or basin-specific case studies are encouraged. Theme 2: Occurrence and distribution of critical metals in coal; these can provide insights to guide the development of pre-concentration (e.g., physical sorting, gravity separation). We welcome contributions applying field data to optimize pre-enrichment efficiency. Theme 3: Technologies for extracting critical metals from coal and by-products with advanced separation techniques (e.g., hydrometallurgy, bioleaching) tailored to coal/ash matrices with an emphasis on cost-effectiveness and environmental compliance. Submissions evaluating scalable methods or industrial pilot tests will be prioritized.

Guest Editors

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 December 2026



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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Minerals welcomes submissions that report basic and applied research in mineralogy. Research areas of traditional interest are mineral deposits, mining, mineral processing and environmental mineralogy. The journal footprint also includes novel uses of elemental and isotopic analyses of minerals for petrology, geochronology and thermochronology, thermobarometry, ore genesis and sedimentary provenance. Contributions are encouraged in emerging research areas such as applications of quantitative mineralogy to the oil and gas, manufacturing, forensic science, climate change, geohazard and health sectors.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Leonid Dubrovinsky

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JCR - Q2 (Mining and Mineral Processing) / CiteScore - Q1 (Geology)

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 17.7 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 2.6 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the second half of 2025).