

Mining pollution and sedimentation, release flux of heavy metal at sediment-water interface in Wujiangdu Reservoir

QINGQING SUN^{1,*}, SILIANG LI¹, KEQIANG PENG²

¹Institute of Surface-Earth System Science, Tianjin University, Tianjin 30072, China(*correspondent: sunqingqing17@tju.edu.cn)

²State Key Laboratory of Ore Deposit Geochemistry, Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guiyang 550081, China (pengkeqiang@mail.gyig.ac.cn)

China now has 98,822 DAMS, including 51,643 on the Yangtze River. Annual sediment discharge at Datong is 77.4% lower than multi-year average. At Wulong of Wujiang River, an upstream tributary of the Yangtze River, it decreased by 88.9%. Wujiangdu Reservoir (E106.5°, N27.3°), one of step reservoirs in Wujiang River, was built in 1979, undertakes power generation, flood control functions. Long-term mine pollution, cage aquaculture, and dams formed unique coupling geochemical cycles between heavy metals and organic matter. Mean sedimentation rate is 0.48cm/a, and average deposition rate of sediments is 0.156g/(cm²·a). Due to phosphate ore pollution, TP in Yangshui River, a tributary of the reservoir, is up to 87mg/L. Cage culture and mine pollutions have been banned in the last two years. The contents of TOC and TN in the sediment profiles indicated sedimentation-degradation-accumulation model in diagenetic degradation of organic matter. Heavy metals, associated with phosphate ore, in sediments may be re-released into the overlying water through biological or physicochemical processes, resulting in continuous migration and exchange, which easily migrate and transform into the food chain and cause ecological risks. V(V), Cr(VI), As(V), Se(IV), Mo(VI), Sb(V), W(VI), Pb(II), Mn(II), Co(II), Ni(II), Cu(II), Zn(II), Cd(II), P(V), and Fe(II) were synchronously monitored by ZrO-Chelex diffusive gradient in thin films technique, molybdenum-antimony anti-spectrophotometric method, inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer and mass spectrometry. The mean fluxes were respectively (1.96 × 10⁻⁵, 1.34 × 10⁻⁴, 5.57 × 10⁻⁴, 1.12 × 10⁻⁵, 7.03 × 10⁻⁴, 1.15 × 10⁻⁴, 2.05 × 10⁻⁵, 8.81 × 10⁻⁵, 0.074, 4.48 × 10⁻⁵, 1.74 × 10⁻⁴, 9.1 × 10⁻⁵, 1.22 × 10⁻³, 2.05 × 10⁻⁴, 0.100, and 0.159) ng/(cm²·s). The forms of heavy metals in sediments were mainly composed of Exchangeable State and Bound State to Fe-Mn Oxides. With the increase of the service time of the reservoirs, sedimentation reduces the storage capacity, it is necessary to control exogenous input, endogenous release, and formulate eco-friendly sediments discharge management plan.