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Extraction of Yttrium and Europium from Waste Cathode-Ray Tube (CRT) Phosphor by Subcritical Water

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Abstract

The current study investigated leaching of yttrium (Y) and europium (Eu) from waste cathode ray tube (CRT) phosphor by subcritical water extraction (SWE). The leaching efficiency of Y and Eu were 28.15% and 35.92%, respectively, when using 0.5 M sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) at 65°C within 12 h of conventional extraction, and shrinking core model could describe its kinetics. Experimental results from SWE showed it very effective and efficient. The leaching efficiency of Y and Eu was the best when using H₂SO₄ and that of Zn and Pb was the lowest compared with hydrochloric acid (HCl) and nitric acid (HNO₃). The leaching efficiency increased five folds as H₂SO₄ concentration increased from 0.1 M to 0.75 M. It is noted that leaching of Y and Eu increased significantly with temperature and reached 97.51% at 125°C using 0.75 M of H₂SO₄. In addition, sequential extraction was conducted to assess speciation of Zn and Pb in waste CRT phosphor residue after SWE. Fractionation results revealed that SWE process transformed heavy metals to a more stable state.

Keywords: Cathode ray tube (CRT); europium (Eu); leaching; phosphor; subcritical water extraction (SWE); yttrium (Y)

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