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Physicochemical and Mineralogical Characterization of Musina Mine Copper and New Union Gold Mine Tailings: Implications for Fabrication of Beneficial Geopolymeric Construction Materials.

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Highlights

- Copper tailings leachates had alkaline pH (7.34-8.49) while the gold tailings had acidic pH.
- Geochemical fractionation indicates that majority of the major and trace species are present in residual fraction.
- A significant amounts of Ca, Cu and K was available in the mobile fraction and is expected to be released on tailings contacting aqueous solutions.
- The SiO₂/Al₂O₃ ratios indicates the tailings would require blending with Al₂O₃ rich feedstock for them to develop maximum strength.
- Moreover, the tailings have particle size in the range of fine sand which indicates potential application as aggregates in conventional brick manufacture.

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