

UNA MINERALIZACIÓN DE Zn-Pb DE TIPO MVT EN LA CUENCA NEUQUINA

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Abstract

A Mississippi valley type Zn-Pb mineralization is described in the Neuquén Basin. The epigenetic stratabound sulphides are hosted in a dolomitized carbonate bed into Lajas Formation (Jurassic). The mineralization is mainly composed by sphalerite and minor galena, framboidal pyrite and marcasite. It occurs as filling of fracture breccia and dissolution cavities.

The evidences suggest an hydrothermal karst origin for these breccia textures. The $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values from sphalerite indicate a cortical origin sulphur and probably derived from sea sulphate water.

The update data indicate that the sulphides were precipitated by a pH change caused by interaction between a carbonate rock and a metal bearing fluid. The sulphide was probably supplied at the deposition site because organic matter in the carbonate and the clays, may be involved in sulphate reduction.

Average ore grade range from 5,32 to 2,3% Zn and 0,04 to 0,075% Pb indicating that these values are in the lower limit from a world economic MVT deposit. Until now the volume is smal, however the mineralization is interesting because open a new perspective into Neuquen basin exploration.