

EL DEPOSITO BORATÍFERO DEL SALAR DIABLILLOS (SALTA)

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Abstract

The Diablillos salar contains an important borate deposits composed mainly by ulexite. The salar is completely surrounded by crystalline rocks and bounded by reverse faults (N-S) and transcurrent faults (NW-SE). Faults were the feeding structures for boron supply to the basin through thermal springs. From this point of view, Diablillos can be used as a model for borate generation because no other rocks with borate are present in the geological setting. We present the first map of ulexite distribution in the basin using more than one thousand pick and shovel holes. Following the ulexite distribution we made considerations an the borate genesis that can be applied in other saltpan borate deposits of the Puna region. The reserves of ulexite in Diablillos salar, following recent calculations, reach 7 million tons with an average grade of 15% boric oxide.

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