Disposing fly-ash from waste incineration plants

Recupyl, France, has developed a patented process based on hydrometallurgy to eliminate toxic components present in fly-ash from waste incineration facilities. While heavy metals and salts are recovered and reused, residual neutral materials are transformed by low-temperature heat treatment to yield inert glass material. The Recupyl process has been validated and checked at pre-industrial level. It can be adapted to various combinations of ash.

Hydrometallurgical treatment, when combined with other techniques like thermal and mechanical treatment, is well suited for extracting metals from low-grade ores and wastes that can be considered as a low-grade ore. Hydrometallurgy covers all metal extraction processes involving the creation of a solution (with an acidic or basic solvent), leaching and electrolysis. Hydrometallurgical process includes the following individual operations:

- Dissolution of the fraction of ore containing the necessary chemical element;
- Purification and concentration of the solutions; and
- Transformation to metal states.

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