Sulfate Sorption on Goethite in the Presence of Pb.

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We studied the effect of lead (Pb) on sulfate (SO(@4)) sorption at the goethite-water interface at pH 4.3, 5.5 and 6.0 using in situ ATR-FTIR spectroscopy. As base line information, SO(@4) sorption was studied in the absence of Pb over a range of SO(@4) concentrations. At all pH values, both inner-sphere and outer-sphere SO(@4) sorption complexes were observed. Inner-sphere SO(@4) complexes became more dominant with decreasing pH. and increasing SO(@4) concentrations. Adding Pb to the system resulted in an increase of the overall SO(@4) sorption and an increase in the contribution of outer-sphere SO(@4) complexes. This may be due to Pb competing with SO(@4) for inner-sphere sorption sites, and/or electrostatic effects due to innersphere Pb sorption. XAFS data for Pb sorbed on goethite showed that Pb forms inner-sphere complexes at the goethite surface. No differences were observed between Pb sorbed in the absence of SO(@4) and Pb sorbed in a system with a 500-fold excess of SO(@4).

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