

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE MINE PIRQUITAS IN THE SECTOR NORTHWEST OF THE PUNA, JUJUY, ARGENTINA.**

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Pirquitas mine is a tin and silver deposit located in the Argentinean Puna. Mining activities developed in Pirquitas mine during last sixty years produced important environmental modifications in the study sector. In order to analyze these changes different investigations were made on the degradation suffered by the system because of mining activity and the environmental vulnerability. The main modifications were observed in landscape and drainage system. The degradation observed was not only due to mining activity, but also anthropic activity associated with this. The vulnerability of environmental factors is high, which means that its acceptability is low. Surface and underground water, flora and fauna are the most problematical of all. To organize in a sustainable way for the environment, in the case of exploitation and the related activities, different considerations were observed. The objective was to take advantage of the maximum mineral resource with the smallest degradation in the environment. For that reason, qualitative and quantitative analysis were made to know the environmental acceptance in the considered area.