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EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF THE INTENSITY OF COAL DUST REMOVAL

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Abstract. Problem statement. Industrial sites where coal storages are located are intensive sources of dust pollution of the environment. There is an important problem of assessing the intensity of dust removal into the atmospheric air from polluted areas. Knowledge of the intensity of dust removal into the atmospheric air makes it possible to scientifically assess the impact of contaminated sites on the pollution of the environment and work zones at industrial sites. The solution to this problem can be obtained experimentally. **The purpose of the article.** An experimental study of the value of the air flow velocity at which the detachment of dust particles from the surface with coal begins and their removal into the air and the determination of the intensity of the emission of coal dust from the contaminated surface. **Methodology.** The intensity of removal of coal dust from the contaminated area was studied experimentally in laboratory conditions. The research was conducted on coal samples from DTEK “Pavlohraduhillya”, grade “ДГ. During the research, the velocity of the air flow at which the process of movement of dust particles along the emission source began and the velocity of “detachment” of dust particles and their removal from the emission source were determined. At the second stage of experimental research, the intensity of removal of coal dust from the polluted area was determined. **Scientific novelty.** The values of the air velocity at which the removal of coal dust particles from the contaminated area begins were determined experimentally. The regularity of the intensity of the removal of coal dust depending on the velocity of the air flow over the contaminated area was obtained. **Practical significance.** The obtained experimental data make it possible to determine under which weather conditions there is a risk of dust formation and the removal of dust into the atmosphere. The empirical dependence obtained by processing experimental data can be used for a scientifically based assessment of the level of pollution of working areas at industrial sites where there are coal storage facilities. **Conclusions.** The value of the velocity of the air flow at which the movement of dust particles on the contaminated surface begins, as well as the value of the velocity of the air flow at which the removal of dust particles into the air begins, was determined experimentally. The resulting empirical model can be used to estimate environmental damage due to dust pollution of atmospheric air.

Keywords: *coal dust; atmospheric pollution; dust emissions; laboratory experiment*

ЕКСПЕРИМЕНТАЛЬНЕ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ ІНТЕНСИВНОСТІ ВИНОСУ ВУГІЛЬНОГО ПИЛУ

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Анотація. Постановка проблеми. Промислові майданчики, де розташовуються сховища вугілля, – це інтенсивні джерела пилового забруднення навколишнього середовища. Виникає важлива проблема оцінювання інтенсивності виносу пилу в атмосферне повітря від забруднених ділянок. Знання інтенсивності виносу пилу в атмосферне повітря дає можливість науково обґрунтовано оцінити вплив забруднених ділянок на забруднення довкілля та робочих зон на промислових майданчиках. Рішення проблеми може бути отримане експериментальним шляхом. **Мета роботи** – експериментальне дослідження значення швидкості повітряного потоку, за якої починається відрив часток пилу від поверхні з вугіллям та винос їх у повітря і визначення інтенсивності емісії вугільного пилу від забрудненої поверхні. **Методика.** Інтенсивність виносу вугільного пилу від забрудненої ділянки досліджувалася експериментальним шляхом у лабораторних умовах. Дослідження проводилися на зразках вугілля з ПрАТ «ДТЕК Павлоградвугілля», марки ДГ. Визначалася швидкість повітряного потоку, за якому починався процес руху частинок пилу вздовж джерела емісії та швидкість відриву частинок пилу та їх винос від джерела емісії. На другому етапі експериментальних досліджень визначалася інтенсивність виносу вугільного пилу від забрудненої ділянки. **Наукова новизна.** Експериментальним шляхом обчислено значення швидкості повітря, за якої починається винос частинок вугільного пилу від забрудненої ділянки. Отримано закономірність інтенсивності виносу вугільного пилу залежно від швидкості повітряного потоку над забрудненою ділянкою. **Практична значимість.** Отримані експериментальні дані дають можливість визначати, за яких метеумов виникає ризик пилоутворення та винос пилу в атмосферне повітря. Емпірична залежність, отримана шляхом обробки даних експериментів, може бути використана для науково обґрунтованої оцінки рівня забруднення робочих зон на промислових майданчиках, де є сховища вугілля. **Висновки.** Експериментальним шляхом визначено значення швидкості повітряного потоку, за якої починається рух частинок пилу на забрудненій поверхні, а також значення швидкості повітряного потоку, за якої починається винос у повітря частинок пилу. Отримана емпірична модель може бути використана для оцінювання екологічних збитків унаслідок пилового забруднення атмосферного повітря.

Ключові слова: вугільний пил; забруднення атмосфери; емісії пилу; лабораторний експеримент

Problem statement. Assessing the level of dust air pollution at industrial sites is an important issue in the field of occupational health and environmental safety [3; 4]. At industrial sites, where there are coal storage facilities, areas of coal contamination of the site's underlying surface are always formed (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Pollution of the industrial site territory (<https://www.shutterstock.com/ru/search/coal-production>)

It should be emphasized, that areas with small fractions of coal dust are formed on the underlying surface of these sites. Even at low wind velocities, these areas become secondary sources of dust pollution in the working areas of the industrial site. Therefore, there is an important problem of protecting the air in the working areas of the industrial site from dust pollution. This problem attracts special attention, since coal is widely used in the energy sector of the world and coal storage facilities are widely used at industrial sites of thermal power plants, boiler houses, enterprises.

In solving this problem, it is important to determine at what wind velocity the dust particles begin to detach from the coal surface and are carried into the air. In addition, it is very important to determine the intensity of dust emissions under different meteorological conditions, primarily at different wind

velocities. This information makes it possible to determine under what meteorological conditions there is a risk of secondary dust air pollution at an industrial site. It should be emphasized, that the value of the wind velocity, at which the movement of dust particles begins and they are carried into the air, makes it possible to assess the effectiveness of protective measures planned to reduce the intensity of dust formation at industrial sites.

It should be noted, that the solution of problems in the field of dust pollution is based on the widespread use of experimental research methods [1–9]. Conducting field studies is associated with many difficulties. Therefore, an important method of analysis is a laboratory experiment.

The purpose of the article. Experimental study of the value of the air flow velocity, at which dust particles begin to detach from the surface with coal and are carried away into the air, and determination of the intensity of coal dust emission from the contaminated surface.

Methodology. The experimental study was carried out in laboratory conditions. The scheme of the experimental setup is shown in Fig. 2 [1].

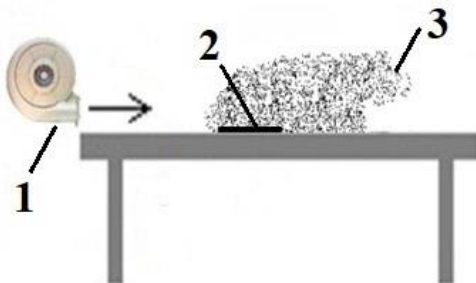


Fig. 2. Scheme of the experimental setup: 1 – blower; 2 – emission source; 3 – dust plume

The laboratory study was carried out using coal from DTEK “Pavlohradvuhillya” PJSC, grade “ДГ”. A section of coal was placed on a table in the form of a “beach”; the shape of this source of dust emission is a rectangle, length 5 sm, width 5 sm (Fig. 2). A blower was used to create a flow with different velocities v_i over the “beach”. The airflow velocity was measured using GM8908 anemometer. Since the measurement was carried out in a turbulent flow, the velocity shown by the anemometer is in a certain range.

The air temperature during the experiment was 20 °C.

Results. During the experiment, the air flow velocity was visually recorded at which the process of movement of dust particles along the emission source began (the “creep” type velocity v_{cr}) and the velocity of “etachment” of dust particles and their removal from the emission source (the “suspension” type velocity v_{su}). The measurement results are as follows:

$$v_{cr} = 0,8 \text{ m/s} - 1,1 \text{ m/s};$$

$$v_{su} = 1,5 \text{ m/s} - 1,7 \text{ m/s}.$$

Figure 3 shows the dust pollution zone formed near the emission source during the experiment.

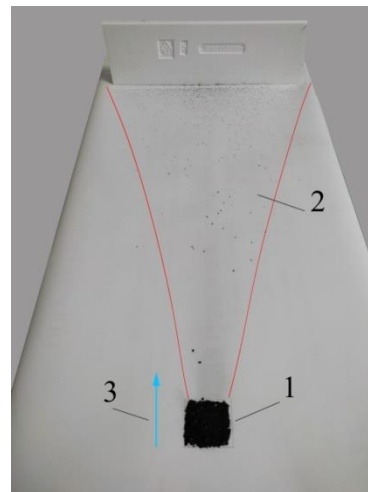


Fig. 3. Dust contamination zone: 1 – emission source; 2 – contamination zone; 3 – wind flow direction

As can be seen from Figure 3, a “cone” shaped contamination area is formed near the emission source. The most intense contamination occurs near the source of emission, as evidenced by the darker color of the contamination zone. The following should also be noted: the area of the source of pollution was 25 sm², but the area of the pollution zone (Fig. 3) was about 1 600 sm². Thus, the removal of dust particles from an insignificant in size emission source forms a very significant zone of secondary pollution.

At the second stage of the experiment, the amount of coal dust blown off the surface during a specific period of time was estimated. The blowing took place for 30 seconds. After that, the mass of dust, that

was blown off the beach during this time, was determined by measuring it on the scales. Further, the intensity of dust emission from a unit area of the beach was calculated at the selected air flow velocity:

$$q_i = \frac{M_i}{t \cdot S} \left[\frac{\text{g}}{\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{s}} \right],$$

where M_i is the mass of coal dust blown off the beach in time t at air velocity v_i ; S is “beach” area.

The results of processing the experiments to determine the q_i parameter are shown in Figure 4 – where the dependence of the dust emission intensity on the unit area of the beach surface at different air flow velocities is shown.

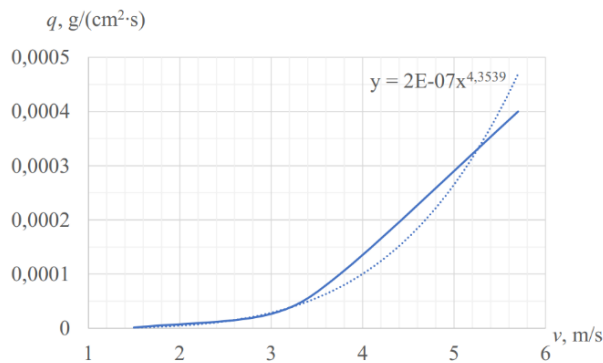


Fig. 4. Intensity of coal dust emission from the beach surface (g/(cm²·s)) at different air flow velocities

Based on the results of processing the experimental data, the following mathematical dependence was obtained for calculating the amount of coal dust q carried away from unit surface the beach per time:

$$q = 2 \cdot 10^{-7} \cdot v^{4.35}, \frac{\text{g}}{\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{s}},$$

where v – air flow velocity, m/s.

This relationship can be used to quickly estimate the amount of coal dust carried away from contaminated surfaces formed at industrial sites.

Scientific novelty and practical value. The critical air flow velocity at which the emission of coal dust from a contaminated area at an industrial site into the atmosphere begins has been determined experimentally. Based on the processing of the experimental data, a dependence was obtained that makes it possible to calculate the intensity of coal dust emissions from a contaminated area at an industrial site. The results of the experiment can be used to assess the risk of dust formation at industrial sites with coal storage facilities.

Conclusions

1. The value of the air flow velocity at which the movement of dust particles on the contaminated surface begins, as well as the value of the air flow velocity at which the removal of dust particles into the air begins, was determined experimentally.

2. A dependence (empirical model) was obtained that allows determining the intensity of coal dust removal from a contaminated surface at different wind velocities.

3. The obtained empirical model can be used to assess environmental damage caused by dust pollution of the atmospheric air.

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