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Changing conceptions of South African coal-based pollution, with special reference to the Witbank coalfield, 1906-1978

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Abstract

This thesis provides an historical analysis of changing ideas
impact. Special reference to the Witbank coalfield between 19
representation of how South African coal mining was perceived
particularly in how these ideas were shaped by the appea
manifestations of coal pollution in the region. It provides
representation of different phases of the coal industry over the c
the twentieth century. The first chapter highlights how early
easily ignored by State and industry, owing to the localized impacts
pollution as well as the localized impact of early stages of
electricity in the early 1920s. The growth of the Witbank coal indus
this development is assessed, with specific reference to
was stimulated by the needs of the Second World War. This resulte
and signaled the way in which pollution was understood in the region.
intensified atmospheric pollution between 1960 and 1970 led to
development of South Africa's first legislation related direct
pollution, the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act (APPA) of
insights into the way pollution was understood and addressed that
influenced the nature of the Act. The final two chapters of the thesis
by the Witbank coal industry. It also explores the way in which
in light of the apparent failure of the Act. The continued concern of this st
demonstrate an evolution of the ideas that shaped both the way in
pollution has been conceived. The study thus reflects how an
over time.