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## Mercury contamination of soil as the result of long-term phosphate fertilizer production

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This study was aimed at determining the range and spatial distribution of mercury in a geographical area influenced by the emissions of phosphate fertilizers industries in Rio Grande, Brazil. The case study demonstrated that mercury concentrations in a fine fraction of the surface soil close to the fertilizer factory reached levels as high as 800  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ . Increased mercury concentrations were detected up to 60 cm below the soil surface. Further, a significant impact of the elevated mercury levels was manifested in a 1-km zone around the factory. Technical grade sulfuric acid employed in superphosphate production is considered the principal source of this mercury contamination

Palabras clave: Fertilizer production, Mercury, Soil contamination, Sulfuric acid

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