Origin and Mineralogy Glacial and Interglacial Clays of Southern Norway

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Abstract: The Numedal River basin (6000 km²) in central and east Norway contains 3×10^9 m³ of clayey material, corresponding to a clay loam sediment, which contains 2 million tons of absorbed rare earth elements.

The clay mineralogy varies systematically from the till clays to a marine facies. It is concluded that the phyllosilicates of the clay fraction and tills originated from phyllosilicate minerals of the crystalline bedrock through a degradation partly due to preQuaternary weathering which dissolved a great part of the rock-forming minerals.

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