

## SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MODIFIED DIATOMITE BY CALCINATION AND THEIR EFFECT IN THE PROPERTIES OF ASPHALT BINDER

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### **Abstract :**

During the last decades, there has been an increasing interest in the cement industry to incorporate pozzolanic materials to cement in order to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and increase the strength and durability of mortars and concretes. In this work, the potential use of two thermally activated kaolinitic diatomite (clay) as pozzolanic materials coming from different deposits of wetherland of Algeria (Sig, Wilaya of Mascara) is studied both kaolinitic diatomite has different kaolinite content and structure. After thermal treatment and grinding, their pozzolanic properties were studied on blended cement containing 30 % of calcined diatomite. It was determined that mortars containing calcined diatomite with a higher percentage of kaolinite and certain disorder degree in its crystallinity previous to calcination, developed higher resistance to compression. This can be attributed to larger quantity of hydration products caused by the pozzolanic reaction, which also produces a better pore size arrangement. To conclude, when kaolinitic diatomite is used as pozzolana, kaolinite percentage and structural disorder are variables to be taken into account.

**Keywords :** Kaolinite, Diatomite, clay, pozzolana, cement.