ALUNOGEN

$Al_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 17H_2O$

Alunogen is a supergene mineral that usually forms as the result of oxidizing pyrite reacting with aluminum-rich rocks such as shale at atmospheric conditions. It typically forms white or pale yellow efflorescences and encrustations resembling numerous other aluminum or iron sulfate minerals, and is therefore best identified by chemical or X-ray means. Northern Peninsula.

Iron County: Sherwood mine, Iron River: Alunogen has been identified on a single specimen from the L. T. Hampel collection, now in the collection of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum, Michigan Technological University. The alunogen forms tiny yellow-white flakes on a yellow-white mass of radiating silky fibers of pickeringite (q.v.). The mineral was originally misidentified as halotrichite, but has been shown by X-ray diffraction and verified by energy dispersion X-ray spectrometry to be alunogen with pickeringite.

UPDATE FROM: Robinson, G.W., and Carlson, S.M., 2013, Mineralogy of Michigan Update: published online by A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum, Houghton, MI, 46p.