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Structural relation between lamination sheeting and zone of weathering in Hoseiji Granodiorite

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This paper shows that development of lamination sheeting by stress release, preceding chemical decomposition, produced zone of weathering in coarse-grained hornblende-biotite-granodiorite of Hoseiji Granodiorite, Hiroshima Prefecture, southwest Japan. The lamination sheeting has horizontal parallel- arranged fractures with spacing of the millimeter order. The lamination sheeting are well developed into subsurface zone of 10-20m in thickness consisting of strong weathered rocks with chemical decomposition, and additionally into narrow zones along horizontal cubic joint surfaces in fresh rocks without chemical decomposition at the depths. It is considered that the rocks in subsurface zone were chemically decomposed by reaction between rock and groundwater along numerous fractures due to lamination sheeting.