

SOLUTION MINING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

812 MURIEL STREET
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS 60098
815-338-8579

MEETING
PAPER



Solution Mining Technique
in the Brinefields of Schweizerhalle
and Riburg of the Vereinigte
Schweizerische Rheinsalinen (United
Rhine Salines of Switzerland)

authored by

Dipl.-Ing. ETH Paul Streit, Vereinigte
Schweizerische
Rheinsalinen

Dipl.-Ing. Hartmut Gomm, Kavernen Bau- und
Betriebs-GmbH

October 1982

1. Introduction

In the region of Basel near the 3-Country-Corner, Switzerland, France and Germany salt has been extracted by leaching since 1837 (Fig. 1).

After 16 unsuccessful drillings the German saline expert, Carl Christian Friedrich Glenck, discovered the salt bed in the Rhine valley to the east of Basel in the year 1836.

One year later the Schweizerhalle Saline commenced salt production. By 1848 3 further production sites were opened; 2 highly modern equipped salines are still in operation today, namely

- Schweizerhalle saline, approx. 7 km to the east of Basel; and
- Riburg saline, approx. 20 km to the east of Basel.

Salt deposits in Switzerland are the property of the Cantons (States). In order to mine the salt deposit a concession from the respective Canton is required. Salt is practically the only mineral mined in considerable quantities in Switzerland. For this reason there are no Mining Authorities in Switzerland to supervise or regiment the mining or leaching operation. The operator himself has an unlimited liability for all possible mining damages and is fully liable for any compensation.