

MINIMIZATION OF INSOLUBLES RECOVERY DURING LEACH

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INTRODUCTION

A long standing problem in the creation of new cavern storage space has been the associated production of various insolubles contained in the salt formation and brought to the surface with the flow of brine. These insolubles include such salt associated minerals as anhydrite, gypsum, polyhalite, etc. Additional brine discharge components are any silts or sands brought in with the raw water supply. Disposal of these insolubles, which are recovered in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) operations in quantities measured in hundreds of tons, presents severe problems in terms of both cost and environmental considerations. In what follows, a method for controlling the accumulation of these insolubles is presented.