

LIMITS TO DEPTH OF MINING IN LOUISIANA SALT DOMES

by

H.D.S Miller, B. Sc., Ph.D., P.Eng.

M.A. Stoakes, B.Sc.

INTERNATIONAL MINING SERVICES, INC.

Introduction

The geology and history of mining in the Louisiana salt domes has been well documented by Kupfer (1983), Vaughan (1925) and others. Kupfer (1983) gives a particularly good summary and description of the mining methods presently in use as well as their development. Tables 1 and 2 list some useful data concerning the Louisiana domal salt mines. The Winnfield dome, situated in central Louisiana, became flooded in the mid-sixties after being mined for more than 30 years. Not much information is available regarding this mine and this report therefore concerns itself with the five coastal or "Island" domes.