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SALT DOME CAPROCK CHARACTERISTICS, ORIGIN AND INFLUENCE IN SALT DOME UTILIZATION

by

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**Presented at the Spring 1989 Meeting
New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.
May 1, 1989**

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INTRODUCTION

In the planning, design, and operation of facilities to mine salt or utilize space within the salt, it is advisable to consider the entire dome and intruded host materials as a complete system. The details of this system are shown diagrammatically in Figure one. A very important part of this system is the caprock. Wells drilled and shafts constructed into the salt must pass through caprock if it is present. This domal feature presents unique problems when first penetrated which may continue to require attention throughout the useful life of the development and perhaps indefinitely. Therefore, it is important to take into account the characteristics of this rock mass along with an understanding of its genesis.