

SOLUTION MINING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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

**MEETING
PAPER**



THE SINKHOLE ON FM 442

by

R.L. Thoms and R.M. Gehle

**AGM INC.
P.O. Box 10358
College Station, Texas 77842
(409) 693-0631**

**SMRI Spring Meeting
Austin, Texas
April 22-25, 1990**

THE SINKHOLE ON FM 442.

R.L. Thoms and R.M. Gehle

AGM INC.

Abstract

In 1983 a sinkhole, with diameter and depth of approximately 250 ft (76 m) and 22 ft (7m) respectively, appeared abruptly under the Farm-to-Market (FM) highway 442 in Wharton County, Texas. The FM 442 Sinkhole site was over the Boling Dome, located approximately 50 mi (80 km) southwest of Houston. The characteristics and history of the site were reviewed, and early sulfur mining was located at a distance of around 1500 ft (460m) from the site, along with oil well drilling at closer distances. Subsequently a scenario is proposed that designates the primary reason for development of the Sinkhole to be the early mining activity in the local area, rather than natural geologic processes or hydrologic Interconnections to distant sulfur mining. Thus, careful siting investigations should suffice to determine the stability of facility sites on Gulf Coast salt domes, including those that are/were sulfur productive.

©2023 - Solution Mining Research Institute

Full Paper is Available in the SMRI

Library(www.solutionmining.org)