

# Postleaching process in oil storage caverns

by

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## 1 Introduction

Since 1977 the Underground Storage Company Nordenham-Blexen is operating a cavern facility to store oil and benzine. All 8 caverns are constructed in a depth of 650 m to 1450 m . The lost of storage capacity by convergence behaviour of salt is to be compensated by post-leaching the caverns. The oil caverns volume has to be increased for about 40.000 m<sup>3</sup>. This new volume has distributed to revereval caverns in the following manner:

<i>Storage media</i>	<i>volume enlargement /m<sup>3</sup>/</i>	<i>number of caverns</i>
fuel oil	8000 - 10.000	1
crude oil	30.000	3

For every postleached cavern an individual leaching concept is to be developed because cavern enlargement during normally storage in operation isn't a experienced technology. In detail following steps of postleaching process are demonstrated by the fuel oil cavern K3.

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