

SOLUTION MINING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

New address as of June, 1995:

1745 Chris Court
Deerfield, Illinois 60015-2079

Country code: 1 ♦ Voice: 847-374-0490
Fax: 847-374-0491 ♦ E-mail: bdiamond@mcs.com

MEETING
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BEHAVIOR OF SEALED SOLUTION-MINED CAVERNS

by

P. Berest and B. Brouard

Laboratoire de Mécanique des Solides
Ecole Polytechnique, 91128 Palaiseau France

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ABSTRACT

Solution-mined caverns will be one day sealed and abandoned. Due to an increasing concern in environmental and safety issues, the long term behavior of brine bubble initially enclosed in the cavern has been analyzed by several authors, who lay emphasis on the fracturation risk due to the progressive pressure build up in the cavern caused by brine heating and cavern creep. In this paper we suggest to take into account the rock salt permeability : even if small, it allows some pressure release and leads to a final equilibrium pressure which is substantially lower, in many cases, than the lithostatic pressure.

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