

THE VALUE OF THERMAL ENERGY RECOVERY FROM SALT CAVERNS

ABSTRACT

The paper introduces to a discussion of the quantities of heat recoverable from salt caverns and of its value from a regenerative energy point of view. To provide a reference comparison, the order of magnitude of heat supply levels for heating and cooling systems is established for typical designs of solar energy collection, geothermal heat use and aquifer thermal energy storage projects. Similar quantities of low temperature heat can be expected from extracting the heat contained in abandoned salt caverns. The conclusion is offered that salt caverns provide an energy source as valuable and economical as other regenerative heating energy supply systems, in particular, if government funded programmes aid in developing site specific solutions.

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