

Cavern Sealing and Abandonment
General Overview and Current Status
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Introduction

Abandonment of sealed liquid filled salt caverns has been a question for industry and regulators for many years. It has been the focus of many technical papers, symposia, conference panels, field experiments, lab experiments, etc., over the last 10 to 20 years. The recently completed “SMRI Bibliography for Cavern Abandonment” is an up-to-date source of references to the relevant literature.

Although there is perhaps a general agreement on the gross scenario of concern, there is certainly differences in opinion by the many “technical experts” on the details related to salt cavern pressurization following abandonment or plugging, and the salt response to the cavern pressurization. Bringing such differences of opinion into a more focused level of understanding is the overall purpose of the SMRI Cavern Sealing and Abandonment Research Program (CS&ARP).

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