

Solution Mining Research Institute, Spring 2003 Technical Meeting

Houston, Texas, USA, 27-30 April 2003

Kansas Underground Storage Regulations

Cina Poyer and Michael Cochran

Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Topeka, Kansas, USA

Abstract

Kansas has approximately 600 underground liquid hydrocarbon and natural gas storage caverns in the Hutchinson bedded salt. In 2001, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) was mandated by the Kansas Legislature to write regulations that were more protective of human health, safety, and the environment than the existing regulations.

The KDHE must meet the challenges that face all regulators: implementing regulations that are protective of human health, safety, and the environment; evaluating the economic impact of new regulations on both the public and industry; considering the logistics of implementing the regulations; and developing regulations that will allow industry to keep the flexibility of using new technology for the safe operation and maintenance of the storage facilities.

The Kansas Underground Storage Regulations final draft has evolved through meetings with the industry to address the applicability and feasibility of regulations proposed in the initial draft. The safe operation and maintenance of the storage facilities can only be achieved through a plan based on the demand for public safety and the technical expertise of underground storage operators.

Key words: Bedded Salt Deposits, Caverns for Gas Storage, Caverns for Liquid Storage, Kansas