

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CARRIÇO GAS STORAGE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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1. Abstract

The Carriço Gas Storage Project is the first storage in a salt formation being developed in Portugal. The project was initially designed for a total working volume capacity of 140 millions of Nm³ in four caverns, and is at a volume of 220 millions of Nm³ at the time being. The initial exploration phase started in 1994, the caverns leaching in 2001 and the first gas operation in 2005. At the end of April 2008, the solution mining of the fourth cavern is almost completed and an additional well was started in March.

The purpose of this paper is to present an overview of the different aspects of the project, including the following points:

1. Current status of the project (number of caverns in operation, working gas volumes, injection and withdrawal capacities, solution mining capacities)
2. Project main steps from 1994 to 2008 (exploration, design and construction schedule, ownership, contractors)
3. Technical description of the cavern field
4. Technical description of the surface facilities
5. Specific issues (salt production and cogeneration unit, insoluble content, brine disposal, water intake, seismic monitoring)
6. Future developments

Key words: Caverns for Gas Storage, Cavern Development, Geology, Portugal.