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THE HENGELO BRINE FIELD REVISITED; THE NEW GOOD SALT MINING PRACTICE GUIDELINES

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to present the latest developments in solution mining in the Hengelo brine field.

With the introduction of the new mining legislation in The Netherlands in 2003 new geomechanical, well completion and leaching concepts were developed and successfully introduced from 2005 onwards. The main objectives to do so was the need to minimize subsidence as well as the land use, while at the same time maximizing the use of the natural resource (effective and efficient production as stipulated in the mining law). This new mining method is denominated "Good Salt Mining Practice Guidelines".

Since 2005, more than 15 new caverns have been developed using the GSMP guidelines. An important aspect of these rules is the fact that they incorporate not only technical features but also organizational and communication elements. As such, the guidelines are a strong means, not only for present-day operations but also for future development.

Key words: Rock Mechanics, Well completion, Cavern Development, Subsidence, The Netherlands