

A BRINE-OUTFLOW TEST IN A GELLENONCOURT CAVERN

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SUMMARY

A brine-outflow test was performed in a 250-m deep cavern of the Gellenoncourt brine field. The cavern is opened, and the flow of brine expelled from the cavern is measured. The average brine-outflow rate is 12 liters/day. It is believed that this outflow rate mostly is due to cavern-creep closure, which appears to be 1.8×10^{-5} /yr, a figure significantly faster than expected for a shallow cavern. In fact, the observed outflow rate varies considerably with time, as it is influenced dramatically by atmospheric pressure fluctuations and, to a lesser extent, by Earth tides.

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