

ETZEL CAVERN FACILITY – AN ENERGY HUB FOR CRUDE OIL AND GAS STORAGE IN EUROPE

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Abstract

In north western Germany IVG Caverns GmbH operates a cavern site in domal salt which today comprises 59 cavities for underground storage of crude oil and natural gas. Since 2005 IVG has been owner of the cavern facility and concentrates its operational activities on the development of new caverns mainly for gas storage. For the next decade IVG sees the potential at Etzel to enlarge the cavern field by another 85 additional caverns in order to lease the additional storage capacity to national stockpiling agencies or large-scale energy suppliers.

With view to the SMRI Fall Meeting excursion the presentation gives an introduction to the cavern site and the project development and covers the following aspects:

- Geographic and geologic situation
- Basic conditions for a salt cavern project
- Project development
- Cavern design
- Solution mining
- Cavern inventory
- Outlook and challenges for cavern storage

Key words: Caverns for Oil and Gas Storage, Cavern Design, Solution Mining, Etzel, Germany, Compressed air.