

Mine Information

New Iberia, LA

May 5-7, 2015

General

The Marsh Mine is a multi-level salt mine owned and operated by International De-icing Mining Company. Andrew Jackson is VP of Operations and Ross Reese is currently the mine manager. The Marsh Mine is located in Southern Louisiana Just off the Gulf coast in a small village. The Marsh Mine is active and operating at full capacity. The mine currently works two 11-hour shifts 7 days per week due to the high demand for ice control salt.

Mine Access

Mine access is provided by 2 14-foot diameter concrete-lined shafts and a new 12-foot diameter steel lined shaft. The shafts are known as the #1 exhaust shaft and the #2 new intake shaft and the #3 production/intake shafts. The working areas of the mine are 7 to 10 feet high and some areas are, by design even lower for the purpose of enhanced ventilation.

Explosives

Explosives are used in the mine and are stored on surface at this time.

Electricity

Electrical service to the mine is provided by a local electric company. The main disconnect for all power to the underground is located on the surface. The permissible submersible pump is the only piece of permissible electrical equipment underground. The controls for the mine fan are located at the fan underground. The controls for the submersible pump are located at the transformer. At this time the power to the mine has not experienced and disruptions.

Gas

At this time the mine is a gas category II-B mine (meaning that the existence of methane has never been established) but generally experiences some nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide resulting from blasting and the operation of diesel equipment. Other mines in the area have been known to produce similar gas in addition to methane and hydrogen sulfide.

Phone

There are pager phones at all mine levels at each shaft, at the production lunch room and all shops.

Geology and Ground Control

The Marsh Mine is located approximately ½ a mile from the Gulf of Mexico. Ground control is maintained with timber sets and 8-foot mechanical bolts. Pumps are used to control the water level in the mine as it accumulates. The mine produces approximately 1,000 gallons of brine water per shift that collects at the exhaust shaft sump and is easily controlled by the electric sump pump.

Materials

All materials to work the problem are located underground or on the surface.

Mining Methods

Mining methods are currently conventional. The material is hoisted to surface, screened and loaded into barges to be shipped to the North East part of the country.

Mine Maps

The mine maps were last updated on April 2, 2015.

Mine Equipment

The mine currently utilizes 4 under-cutters, 2 jumbo drills, 2 Smag vertical drill, 4 diesel haul trucks, 4 loaders, 1 (new) Fletcher Bolter and other smaller transportation equipment. The transformer banks, distribution boxes, auxiliary fans, other face mining equipment and submersible pump are the only electric equipment underground.

Ventilation

The mine ventilation is a blowing system, there are 2 two non-reversible 10,000 cfm fans that are located underground at the #2 & #3 shafts. An air raise was recently added from the 1800' level to the surface.

Water

Water flows into the mine constantly via seepage in the salt on the 1000' level and accumulates in several areas of the mine.

Notification

All federal, state and local officials have been notified.

Backup Teams

Two other trained and fully equipped mine rescue teams are on site, one has just completed its first rotation. An additional team will be arriving within 5 minutes.