Mine Information
New Iberia, LA
May, 2014

General

The Swamp Dog Mine is a single-level salt mine owned and operated by Red Fish Mining Company, the parent company was just acquired by a South American investor that has dumped 10 million dollars into the operation and expects high returns on his investment. Ali Landry is VP of Operations and Perry Comeaux is currently the mine manager. The Swamp Dog Mine is located in Southern Louisiana Just off the Gulf coast in a small village, Bayou Corn Louisiana. The Swamp Dog is active and operating at full capacity. The mine currently works two 10-hour shifts 7 days per week due to the high demand for ice control salt. The mine has to contend with localize subsidence in the Bayou Corn area. The subsidence is being monitored and it has not affected our mining operation to date. Due to the subsidence in the area, we have to contend with non-stop national and local media coverage

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. Prior to the purchase the mine experienced ground control problems in the #1 shaft entry which resulted in the 3rd shaft.

Explosives

The new owner introduced continuous miners to the operation; all explosives have been removed from the mine at this time.

Electricity

Electrical service to the mine is provided by a local electric company, CHEAPCO. 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.

Gas

At this time the mine is a gas category VI 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 infrequent sulfur dioxide and hydrogen sulfide.

Phone
There are pager phones at the mine level at each shaft and at the production lunch room.

Geology and Ground Control
The Swamp Dog Mine is located approximately 40 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Ground control is maintained with timber sets and management has started experimenting with 8-foot mechanical bolts. Pumps are used to control the water level in the mine as it accumulates. The mine produces approximately 200,000 gallons of brine water per shift that collects at the exhaust shaft sump and is easily controlled by the electric sump pump. Within three miles of the mine there is an underground natural gas storage being developed and as a result have caused sink holes in the area.

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

Mining Methods
Mining methods have been changed over from typical drilling and blasting to continuous mining which has resulted in the high turn-over rate. 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 1, 2014.

Mine Equipment
The mine currently utilizes 2 continuous miners, 3 diesel 25 ton haul trucks 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 is ventilated by a non-reversible 400,000 cfm fan that is located underground. Ventilating air is pulled from the mine via the # 1 shaft and enters the mine via the # 2 and #3 shafts.

Water
Water flows into the mine constantly via seepage in the salt on the 1200' level and accumulates in several areas of the mine until pumped out, in particular the #1 exhaust shaft sump. In the past, the water has been controllable by pumping it to other areas of the mine then later pumped to the surface via the #1 shaft.

Notification
All federal, state and local officials have been notified.

Backup Teams
Five other trained and fully equipped mine rescue teams are now on site.