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North West Regional Group

Meeting

Thursday 18th April 2013

Evaporites and Dissolution - The History of the Cheshire Basin and the ongoing functions of the Cheshire Brine Subsidence Compensation Board

As Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne, an Act of Parliament was passed which expanded the provisions of the Brine Pumping (Compensation for Subsidence) Act 1891 from its focus on Northwich to create a Compensation District which encompassed most of Cheshire. The uniqueness of the Act and its provisions is related to the uniqueness of the geology of the Cheshire Basin, and the industry which developed as a result of the presence of one mineral, halite or rocksalt.



Beginning with an overview of the geological setting of the Cheshire Basin, we will take you through the history and development of the Salt Industry in Cheshire, the practices of which led to the formation of the Northwich Compensation Board and eventual lobbying for expansion to other parts of Cheshire. Whilst the salt extraction industry looks very different today, the Board retains statutory powers which can affect development proposals within the Compensation District and exercises them in order to ensure stability issues relating to rocksalt extraction are addressed.

Since May 2006, the day-to-day operations of the Board have been discharged by Wardell Armstrong LLP. The Surveyor to the Board is a statutory position and is held by David Wilshaw, who will be making this presentation, with the assistance of Pauline Cooke, the Board's Administrator.

Meeting within the foyer of the Williamson Lecture Theatre 6:15pm for 6:30pm prompt start.

Venue: Williamson Lecture Theatre,
Manchester University, Oxford Road, Manchester

Biography

David (FRICS IEng FIMMM) joined the National Coal Board as an Apprentice Surveyor in 1971, and worked his way up to the position of Subsidence Engineer for the former Western Area of British Coal, before he joined Wardell Armstrong in 1988. David is currently a Technical Director, heading up a multi-disciplinary team dealing with development constraints for projects large and small, and is in demand as one of the few remaining experts (with underground experience) on coal mining subsidence in the UK, even advising the World Bank on coal mining subsidence in China.

Pauline (BEng (Eng Geol) FGS) has worked in Ground Engineering for Wardell Armstrong since her graduation in 1991, gaining specific experience in mainly ground stability issues relating to mineral extraction and natural dissolution



Organised by the North West Regional Group of the Geological Society of London

For further information please visit:
www.geolsoc.org.uk/nwrg
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