



**SOLUTION MINING  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

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**CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT**

# **SMRI SPRING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE**



## *Join Us in Albuquerque, NM!*

*23–27 April 2017*

## Registration

About 175-200 technical delegates are expected to attend the conference. You must register early to ensure a space.

*On-line registration for members starts*    **20 February**  
*Non-member registration starts*            **14 March**  
*Registration ends (last day)*                **7 April**

As last year, attendees will be asked during online conference registration if they wish to buy a conference book and only for Class attendees, a class book, in addition to receiving a free USB drive of papers in pdf format. Attendees must order a book if they want one; no extras will be printed. This measure is being taken to save resources and recognize that many members prefer electronic copies of papers to large paper books.

Please see our [website](#) for the latest information and any changes necessary. For future updates of this announcement, list of papers, technical class details, and field trip information, see our website, select “Conferences” menu, then “Spring 2017 Conference”.

## Conference Sponsors

**GOLD:**      Geostock Entrepouse  
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*A special **Thank You** to our Albuquerque sponsors! Only 2 Silver Conference Sponsorships for Albuquerque are still available. Last day to purchase an Albuquerque Sponsorship is 1 April 2017. Contact [John Voigt](#) for more details.*

## Schedule of Events

### Sunday 23 April

**8:00 am–4:30 pm: Technical Class**, “Well Integrity Management for Salt Caverns”  
*(optional, same class will be repeated in Fall 2017, Münster)*

**6:30–8:30 pm: Ice Breaker Welcome Reception**  
*(optional, no charge)*

### Monday 24 April

**7:00–9:00 am: Breakfast**

**9:00am–4:15 pm Friends and Spouses Tour**

**8:00–9:30 am: Business Meeting**  
*(SMRI members only; all employees of member organizations are encouraged to participate)*

**9:30 am–5:30 pm: Technical Conference**  
**(Lunch 12:00–1:00pm)**

**Oral research report** (tentative) Ecole Polytechnique  
“Very Slow Creep Tests as a Basis for Cavern Stability Analysis”

**6:30 pm–10:00 pm Dinner Event**

### Tuesday 25 April

**8:00 am–5:00 pm: Technical Conference**  
**(Lunch 12:00–1:00 pm)**

**9:15 am–4:15 pm: Friends and Spouses**  
**“Do it Yourself Tuesday”**

### Wednesday 26 April

**Technical Field Trips** *(see detailed schedules)*  
#1) Northern NM: Tent Rocks, Bandalier, Los Alamos  
#2) Western NM: Boca Negra, El Malpais,  
      NM Mining Museum

### Wed.–Thurs. 26–27 April

2 day, Technical Field Trip #3 – Carlsbad area: WIPP surface, Intrepid Postash west mine, and current NM brine well and cavern issues.

## Technical Class “Well Integrity Management for Salt Caverns”

**Sunday, 23 April, 8:00 am–4:30 pm**

*Optional, subject will be repeated at the Fall 2017 SMRI conference in Münster, Germany. Limited to a maximum class size of 100, all participants must be registered for the conference and class.*

Technical Class “Well Integrity Management for Salt Caverns” is designed for beginners in the field, so they may learn important fundamentals of well integrity as it applies to salt caverns. Starting with definitions, experienced instructors will cover areas of potential loss of integrity in a cavern well, proper design requirements for well integrity during solution mining and completion. Mechanical integrity testing (“MIT”) and tightness tests, logging tools for well integrity management, integrated systems for well integrity management, and finally case histories and examples of cavern well failures in Europe and North America will be covered.

SMRI tech classes always allow time for discussions and questions, and there are opportunities for making new contacts and having related discussions during breaks and lunch. Each class participant will receive a USB drive of the class papers and conference papers, and has option to order/purchase a printed Class Book during online registration. For more details, you may contact the Technical Class Chair Patrick de Laguérie: phone (+33 1-47-08 73 65) or e-mail ([patrick.delaguerie@geostock.fr](mailto:patrick.delaguerie@geostock.fr)) An outline of the class schedule and presentations will be posted and follows in this announcement. Technical Class Registration Costs (prices include \$150/day fee for breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks, and AV):

- Class Fee for members or Non-Member Government Regulators \$400 (“NMGR” must contact John Voigt)
- Class Fee for Non-Members \$650
- Class Fee for Member Government Regulators \$150

## Oral Research Report Presentation

**Monday, 24 April, 10:00 am**

### ***Ecole Polytechnique, “Very Slow Creep Tests as a Basis for Cavern Stability Analysis,” by Pierre Bérest***

This research project is complete and on schedule for spring 2017 presentation, with results applicable to storage cavern design and use. The principal results will be presented at the start of the Albuquerque conference and the complete research report will be available online for members only. The report will be available for purchase by non-members starting in March 2018, (after 1 year review period).

## Technical Papers

**Monday and Tuesday, 24–25 April**

A tentative list of about 20 papers and authors will be posted on the [website](#). Any revised version of the technical paper list will be updated on the website as soon as available but will be subject to change. For more technical program information, or for any author’s questions, please contact a Program Chair:

**Scott Rouze** (Program Chair)  
Phone: +1 713-989-3208  
[sgrouze@spectraenergy.com](mailto:sgrouze@spectraenergy.com)

**Dieter Brückner** (Assistant Program Chair)  
Phone: +49 341-33600-0  
[dieter.brueckner@ifg-leipzig.de](mailto:dieter.brueckner@ifg-leipzig.de)

## Technical Field Trips (optional)

Priority will be given to SMRI Member registration until 14 March 2017. No cancellations or refunds after 7 April 2017. **We reserve the right to cancel (or combine field trips #1 and #2) if insufficient people register for any trip.** Advance registration is required, (space is limited as noted). Field trip #3 Carlsbad is not available for friends/spouses for professional priority, and requires registration by 15 March if non-USA citizen for security clearance. All Field Trips require strict compliance with facility rules and safety regulations. Field trip times are tentative due to operational schedule changes, so times are subject to change. The cost will be \$140 per person for field trip #1 North NM, and \$140 per person for field trip #2 Western NM, and \$350 for 2 day field trip #3 Carlsbad. You must be physically able to walk/hike on each tour. Please wear appropriate clothing and sturdy, comfortable shoes. Additional details and information will be available on the website in the “Conferences” section, under “Spring 2017 Conference”.

### **Northern NM:** Tent Rocks, Bandelier, Los Alamos Museum

**Wednesday, 26 April**

**Departure: 8:00 am, Return 5:30 pm (estimate); cost \$140.**

Bus ride to Tent Rocks National Monument for a “moderate” hiking trail to see unique sandstone structures and wildflowers. Bandelier National Monument’s main loop trail includes carved dwellings in the soft rock cliffs and petroglyphs, located on the outer slope of the Valles Caldera. The Los Alamos stop will include part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Substantial hiking required. Lunch will be included. One bus with max 50 participants is planned for a full day of excellent geology and sightseeing.

### **Western NM:** Boca Negra, El Malpais, NM Mining Museum

**Wednesday, 26 April**

**Departure: 7:30 am, Return 4:00 pm (estimate); cost \$140.**

Bus will arrive at Boca Negra canyon part of Petroglyph National Monument just west of Albuquerque on West Mesa, to hike the (moderate rated) trails on the volcanic escarpment, and see ancient petroglyphs carved in the basalt. Acoma City is of cultural interest. El Malpais visitor center offers a unique chance to walk on lava flows. The New Mexico Mining Museum in Grants provides an opportunity to see how uranium was mined. Substantial hiking required. Lunch will be included. One bus with max 50 participants is planned for a full day of excellent geology, mine history, and scenery.

### **Southeastern NM:** (Carlsbad area) WIPP surface, Intrepid Potash west mine, NM OCD

**Wednesday–Thursday, 26–27 April**

**Departure: 7:00 am Wednesday, Return 10:30 pm Thursday (estimate); cost \$350.**

Field trip #3 Carlsbad is not available for friends/spouses for professional priority, and requires registration by 15 March by non-USA citizen for WIPP security clearance. Bus ride to Carlsbad is about 5 hours, so these will be long days, but this is a great opportunity to see several important operations. WIPP is a US DOE nuclear waste isolation project site where waste is emplaced in specially designed mined salt workings, and we will see only the surface operations. Intrepid Potash’s west mine will host the group to see the surface operations and go underground to see geology. The NM State OCD will show us 2 brine well/cavern sites, one already collapsed, and the I&W site in downtown Carlsbad that is being monitored after collapse potential was determined. The group will stay overnight in Carlsbad before returning late Thursday night. Meals and hotel costs included.

# Additional Activities

## ■ SPOUSE AND FRIENDS ATTENDANCE:

Spouses and friends are invited and welcome to: the Icebreaker Reception, the Monday Night Dinner, the Monday and Tuesday Tours, and Field Trips #1 and #2. Participation in these activities is OPTIONAL, and spouses and friends **must be pre-registered and paid by 7 April** and registration depends on space available. We are sorry but do not offer the option of joining SMRI lunches this meeting. Breakfasts are included in the room price. Please wear your name badge for all functions.

## ■ ICEBREAKER WELCOME RECEPTION

**Sunday 23 April, 6:30–8:30 pm**

To open the conference, SMRI is inviting all participants including spouses and friends, to a popular, informal get-together. Attendance is free, so come, relax, and enjoy an evening of light appetizers and the camaraderie of friends and colleagues.

## ■ BUSINESS MEETING

**Monday Morning 24 April, 8:00–9:30 am (SMRI Members Only)**

The SMRI business meeting will be held Monday morning to transact business of the Institute. All members are welcome, including all staff of member organizations, not only voting representatives.

## ■ MONDAY NIGHT DINNER EVENT

**24 April, 6:30–10:00 pm (optional, \$100 per person, 260 person max)**

The Monday Night Dinner Event will be held at the Anderson-Abruzzo Balloon Museum, with cocktail hour and New Mexican buffet dinner. During the evening, guests will be able to tour the balloon museum and learn about the history of hot air ballooning. Bus pick up at the hotel will begin at 6:10 for the 7:00-10:00 pm event.

## ■ FRIENDS AND SPOUSES TOURS

**Monday, 24 April, 9:15 am–4:15 pm (optional, \$75 per person, 24 person max)**

Trolley will pick the group up at the hotel. Start the morning with a guided walking tour (“Albu-Quirky”) of Albuquerque, followed by lunch and exploring on your own. In the afternoon, board a bus for Sandia to ride the scenic Sandia mountain tram.

**Tuesday, 25 April, 9:15 am–4:15 pm (optional, \$50 per person, 34 person max)**

Participants will enjoy the Best of Albuquerque Tour with the ABQ Trolley Company. The guided tour will last 90 minutes and end in Old Town Albuquerque. After lunch and exploring on your own, participants will tour the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History. The ABQ Trolley will pick up from there for return to the hotel.

**Famous Native American Pow Wow will be in Albuquerque just after SMRI, <http://www.gatheringofnations.com/>**

## Attire

Casual attire is suggested for the meeting and all associated events. For the Monday and Tuesday spouses/friends tours and the Wednesday–Thursday field trips, comfortable clothes for outdoor weather, including sturdy shoes appropriate for walking/hiking are suggested. Albuquerque’s late April weather should be pleasant, but check the forecast for the weather.



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## Conference Executives

John O. Voigt (*SMRI or Database Questions*)  
Executive Director  
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Clarks Summit, PA 18411 USA  
Phone +1 570-585-8092  
Fax: +1 570-585-8091  
[jvoigt@solutionmining.org](mailto:jvoigt@solutionmining.org)

Dawn Langlinsais (*Conference Registration Questions*)  
Assistant Executive Director  
20 Sullivan Ridge Way  
Townsend, MT 59644 USA  
Phone: +1 918-914-2499  
Fax: +1 888-843-3995  
[dawnl@solutionmining.org](mailto:dawnl@solutionmining.org)

## SMRI Technical Class Organizing Committee

**Patrick de Laguérie** (*SMRI 2017 Technical Class Chair*)

**Scott Rouze** (*SMRI 2017 Program Chair*)

**Leo Van Sambeek** (*SMRI Research Coordinator*)

## Future SMRI Conferences

### Fall 2017

**24–27 September 2017**

**Münster, Germany**

Class topic: “Well Integrity Management for Salt Caverns”  
(repeated from Spring 2017)

### Spring 2018 SMRI

**16–18 June 2018**

**Park City, Utah, USA**

(Abbreviated Conference before World Salt X)

### Spring 2018 - World Salt X

**10th World Symposium on Salt**

**18–21 June 2018**

**Park City, Utah, USA**

(Salt Lake City Region) SMRI will be assisting with technical program and encourages SMRI members to participate.

### Fall 2018 SMRI

**23-26 September 2018 (tentative)**

**Belfast, Ireland**

# REGISTRATION AND FEES



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## Deadline: 7 April, 2017

Each person attending any part of the technical conference must be in the SMRI database and must register for the conference. If you cannot login to the website and know you have a record to update, please contact John Voigt. Online registration and payment in advance is required by all persons attending. No registrations will be held or accepted without payment. All attending non-technical spouse and friends must be registered as "guests" before completing your registration's online payment. Space for specific events is limited.

Member registration starts	<b>20 February</b> (see website for latest information)
Non-member registration starts	<b>14 March</b>
Registration ends (last day)	<b>7 April</b>

## Registration Fees

(Required) Includes \$150/day for lunch, coffee breaks, printed materials, AV, and a USB drive of technical paper files, but NOT printed conference or class books. All prices are in U.S. dollars.

Members	\$300
One speaker per technical paper	\$0 (non-members 1 time / 3 years)
Government regulators members	\$300
Non-members	\$700

### Technical Class Registration Fees

(Optional) Class held on Sunday, 23 April 2017 "Well Integrity Management for Salt Caverns"

Members	\$400
Government regulators members	\$150
Non-members	\$650

### Field Trips (Optional)

#1 Northern NM: Tent Rocks, Bandelier, Los Alamos	\$140
#2 Western NM: Boca Negra, El Malpais, NM Mining Museum	\$140
#3 Carlsbad area, 26-27 April, WIPP, Intrepid Potash, NM OCD	\$350

### Additional Activities (Optional)

Sunday Icebreaker Welcome Reception	No Charge
Monday Spouses and Friends Tours	\$75
Monday Evening Dinner	\$100
Tuesday Spouses and Friends Tours	\$50

**\*\*\*University students** of related subjects must contact SMRI's European Coordinator (Rene Schneider, [RSchneider@solutionmining.org](mailto:RSchneider@solutionmining.org)) for discount details and applications if you wish to attend for zero registration cost. Members: if you know local professors of subjects related to SMRI, please pass this announcement on to them with your invitation.

## Registration Instructions

(Honorary members please register with Dawn Langlinais)

**Login and Register at [www.solutionmining.org](http://www.solutionmining.org)**

- Participants will select options for technical delegate first, then may add spouse/guest at "guest". Guests do not attend technical sessions
- The system will display the total amount due, in USD (\$).
- This amount must be paid by credit card to complete online registration.
- Check and print your registration confirmation as shown on the screen, (invoice/receipt).

**Cancellation Policy and Changes:** All registration changes or cancellations should be made online. **No cancellations or refunds after 7 April 2017.** (This includes registration for the conference, technical class, field trips, the Monday dinner and the spouses/friends tour). For any registration questions or problems, contact:

**Dawn Langlinais**  
(Assistant Executive Director)  
Phone: +1 918-914-2499  
[dawnl@solutionmining.org](mailto:dawnl@solutionmining.org)

**NO LATE REGISTRATIONS AFTER 7 APRIL**

## Hotel Information

### **Crowne Plaza Albuquerque**

1901 University Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

**Website Reservations:** [Hotel Website Link](#)

**Hotel Direct Phone:** 844-356-6178 (from Europe, dial 00 before this number)

Each SMRI participant is responsible for making their own hotel reservations. SMRI room rate is \$124.

Hotel reservations must be made starting February 14, ending April 17, 2017, to receive SMRI's discounted conference rate. Make sure you tell reservations that you are with "Solution Mining Research Institute," use code SMR.

## Travel Information

Albuquerque International Airport "Sunport" is code: 'ABQ'

Many airlines, such as American, Delta, United, Southwest, and Alaska Airline serve ABQ.

Arrival by plane: Airport is about 20 minutes by taxi to the Crown Plaza Albuquerque conference hotel. Taxis, rental cars, or shuttle buses are available to the hotel. The hotel does not offer shuttle service to/from the airport.

Thinking of flying into a major city and driving to Albuquerque to do some western US sightseeing? Nearest large cities are Denver and Phoenix, both are over 400 miles driving distance to Albuquerque.

