

Potash Dump Reclamation: Hanover Area, Northern Germany

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Schematic sketch of potash dump reclamation scheme

Client: E.u.B. GmbH Ronnenberg - Empelde

Year / Duration: April – May 2009

Type of Performance:

- On site visit to evaluate local situation
- Detailed research on mineralogical composition of the dump
- Development of an innovative concept of effective base sealing of the dump
- Advice on further follow up work

Referee:

E.u.B. GmbH - Erd- und Bauschuttdeponie, Hansastrasse 55a D - 30952 Ronnenberg - Empelde

Phone: 0049 – (0)511 - 465828 Email: mail@eub-recycling.de **Web:www.eub-gmbh.de**

Project Description:

Northern Germany hosts one of the world densest accumulation of salt domes, many of which have been mined for potash and salt in former decades. Apart from one single potash mine in Wunstorf potash mining has stopped in the 1980ies, leaving huge salt dumps, which pose a permament enironmental threat to their neighbourhood.

Until recently the problem of remediation of these dumps had been an unsolved issue, as conventional earth overburden will destabilize within short time due to sub-surface salt solution. E.u.B Gmbh invented an innovative reclamation concept using different fractions of building materials to envelope the salt dump, followed by finer fractions and finally by earth covering. This approach prevents capillar forces to develop and therefore will guarantee a long lasting reclamation success.

Mineral & Exploration was appointed to investigate the base sealing of the salt dump and to develop a concept for a secondary base seal to accommodate standard reclamation levels.

Mineral & Exploration – Dr. Krassmann Blumenstrasse 21 D – 91438 Bad Windsheim / Germany

Phone / Fax: 0049 (0) 9841 - 7302 Email: tkrassmann(at)hotmail.com

Web: www.mineral-exploration.com