

CONTINUOUS MINER UTILIZATION IN UNDERGROUND ROCK SALT MINING

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Started in 1906 with the sinking of a shaft, the Detroit Salt Mine in Detroit, Michigan U.S.A. has operated in the confines of a major metropolitan urban area using drilling and blasting techniques as the mining method of choice for over 100 years. Historically at the mine, an attempt to use an early prototype electric Goodman Borer as a production machine was made in the 1960's that ended in failure. Recently, with Joy Mining Machinery's subsequent development and manufacturing of the 12HM36 Continuous Miner, a renewed interest to use a continuous miner in the Detroit Mine was initiated. Upon completion of a feasibility study, a machine was purchased, assembled and tested in 2008. Subsequently, the machine has been placed into production.

This paper discusses the history and pertinent data resulting from the use of a continuous miner at the Detroit Salt Mine as an alternative mining method in the production of de-icing and other rock salt products.