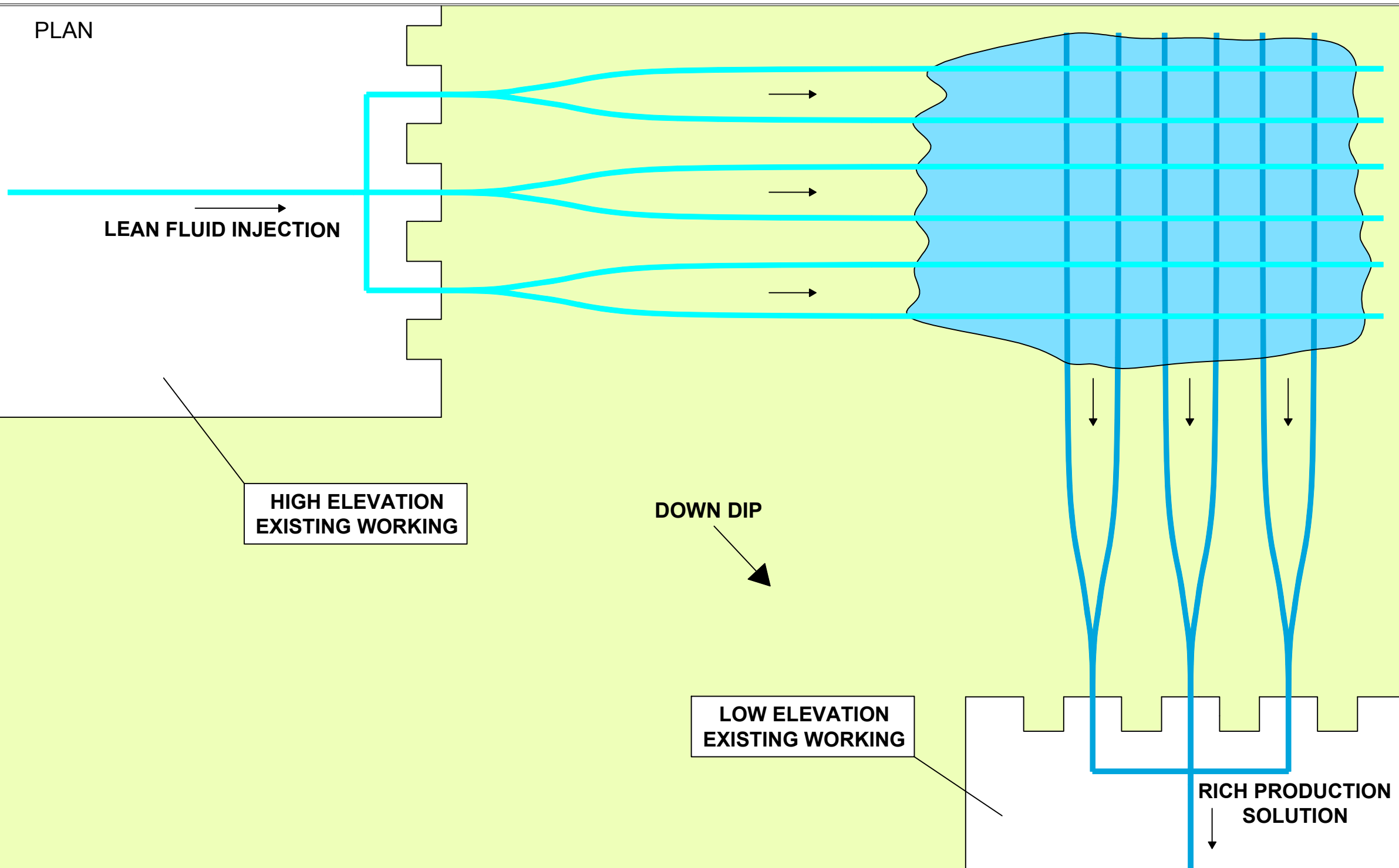


PLAN



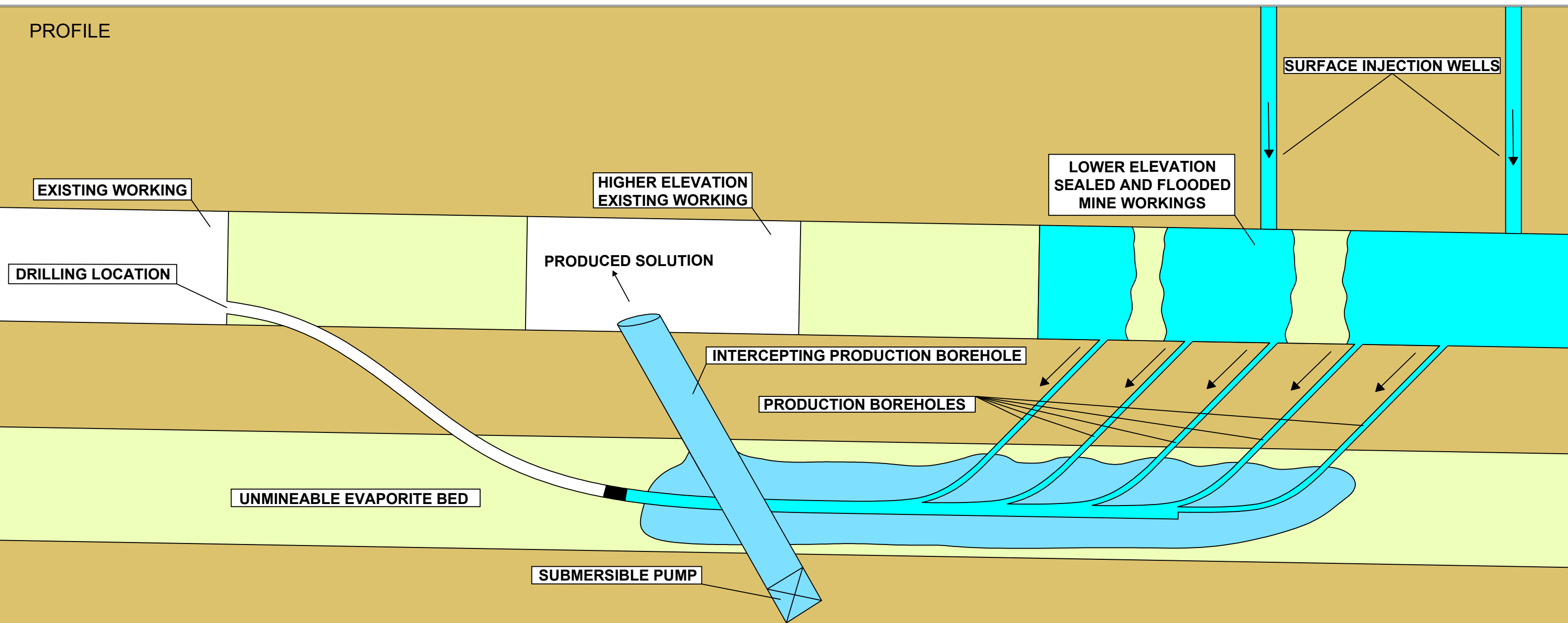
Underground Directional Drilling Using Injection/Production Well Manifold for Solution Mining of Evaporite Bed



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Manifolds of small diameter injection and production wells are directionally drilled from different areas in the mine into a conventionally unmineable evaporite bed. The production wells underlay the injection wells where they cross in plan view. The production wells are drilled from a lower elevation area of the mine so that fluid flows down-dip via gravity from the lean injection site to the rich production site.

PROFILE



Underground Directional Drilling for Solution Mining of Sealed Mine Workings

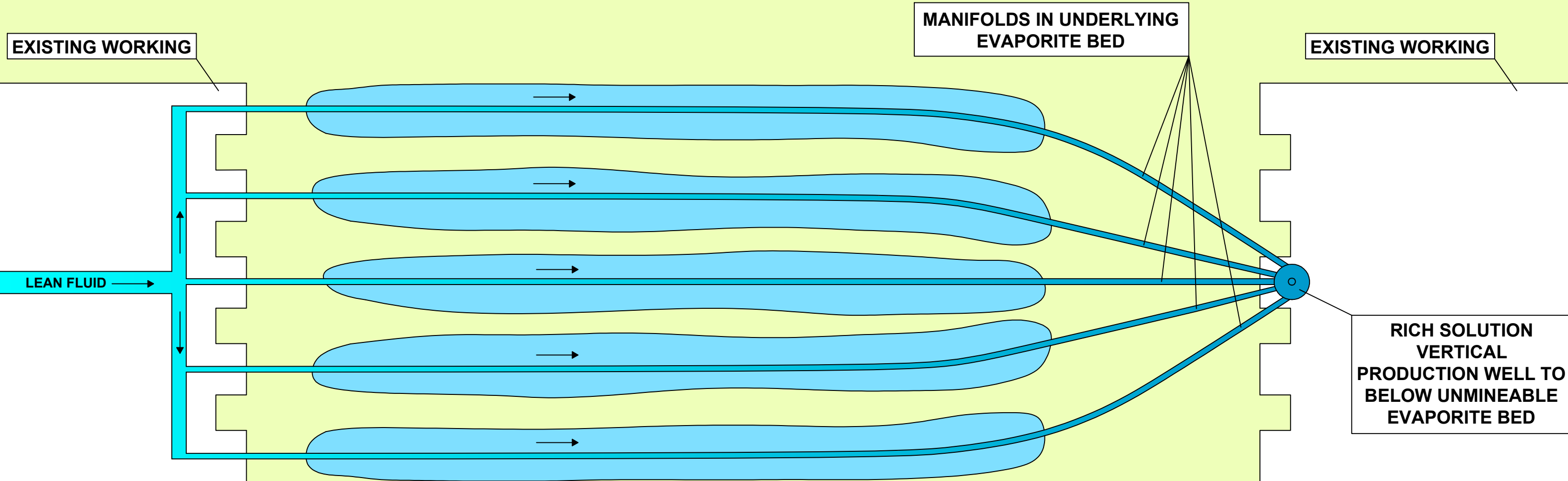
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A small diameter borehole is directionally drilled from a high elevation area of the mine into an underlying evaporite bed. Branches are drilled from this small diameter hole up into a sealed, lower elevation area of the mine. A large diameter borehole is drilled from a relatively high area in the mine to below the underlying evaporite bed. This hole produces rich fluid using a submersible pump. The sealed area of the mine is flooded, the pillars mined via in-situ recovery techniques.

PLAN



Underground Directional Drilling with Interception of Vertical Production Well for Solution Mining of Underlying Evaporite Bed

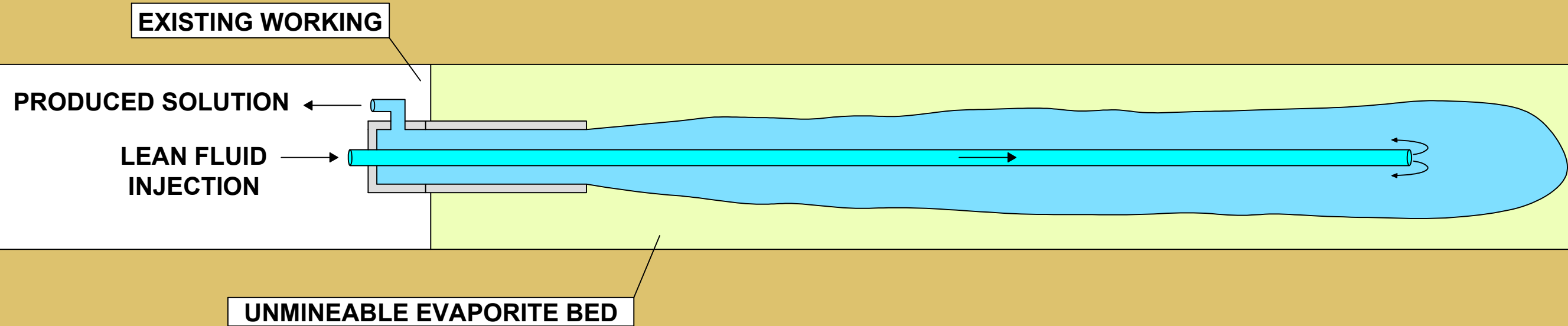
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A plurality of directional boreholes drilled from a single location within the mine form a manifold in an underlying evaporite bed. These holes punch out in another area of the mine where lean fluid is injected into them. Rich fluid is collected at the drilling location where it is pumped to the surface via vertical well.

PROFILE



Underground Horizontal Drilling for Solution Mining of Conventionally Unmineable Evaporites

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A horizontal injection/production well is drilled into the mine-level evaporite bed where conventional mining may not be mechanically or economically feasible. Minerals are extracted via in-situ recovery techniques.

PLAN

OVERLYING
EXISTING WORKING

LEAN FLUID

MANIFOLDS IN UNDERLYING
EVAPORITE BED

OVERLYING
EXISTING WORKING

RICH SOLUTION
COLLECTION
BOREHOLE INTERCEPT

Underground Directional Drilling with Interception of Horizontal Production Well for Solution Mining of Underlying Evaporite Bed

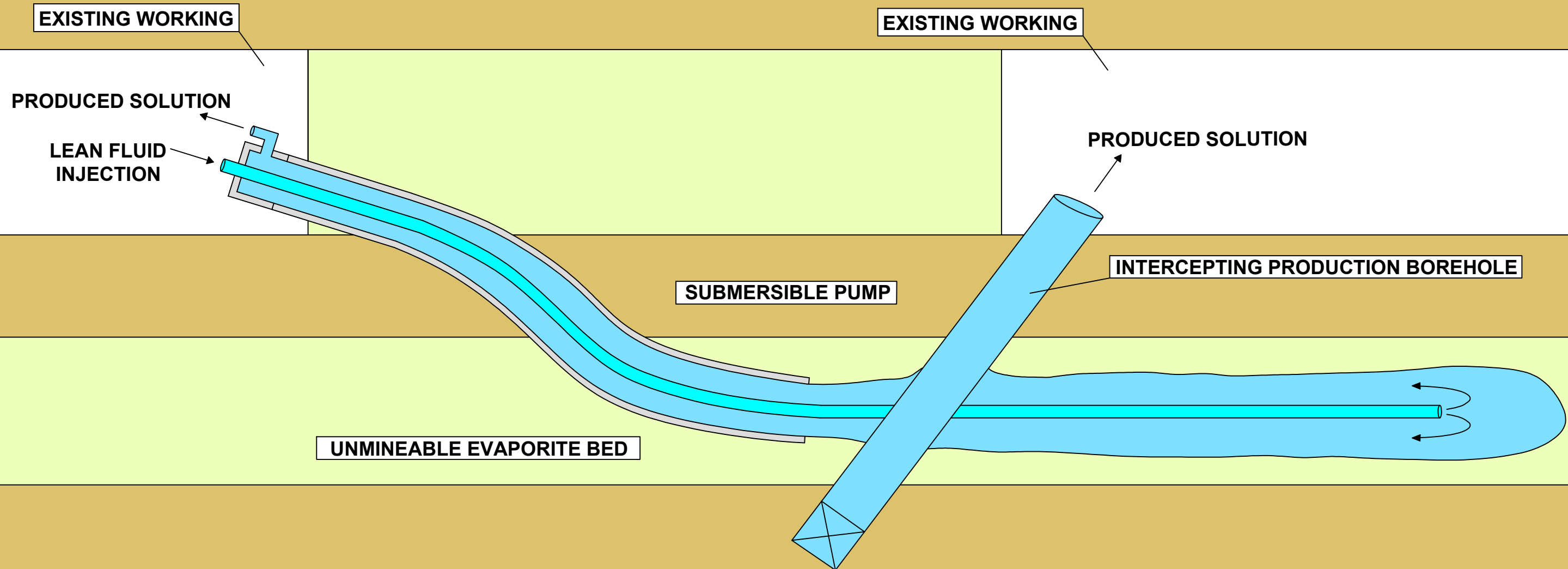
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A plurality of directional boreholes drilled from a single location within the mine form a manifold in an underlying evaporite bed. These holes intercept a large diameter, horizontal production hole that is drilled from another area within the mine. Lean fluid is injected at the directional drilling location and collected at the horizontal production well drilling location.

PROFILE



Underground Directional Drilling for Solution Mining of Underlying Evaporite Bed

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An injection/production well is directionally drilled from mine into underlying evaporite bed. A large diameter production well is drilled from elsewhere in the mine through the underlying bed in the area where the cavern will be developed. This production well utilizes a submersible pump and may be larger diameter because does not need to be directionally drilled and is shorter than the directional hole.