



## DINNER MEETING – Thursday, April 2, 2020

### “Sodium Carbonate – Essential for Life”

**PRESENTED BY:** Karl Cleary, Strategic Investment Manager, Searles Valley Minerals, Trona, California

**TIME:** 6:00 pm Social

7:00 pm Dinner and Presentation

**LOCATION:** Dave & Buster's Conference Room  
4821 Mills Circle  
Ontario, CA 91764

**HOSTED BY:** SoCal Section of SME

**COST:** RSVP - Professional \$40, Students \$10

At door - Professional \$45, Students \$20



**RSVP:** [SMESoCal1850@gmail.com](mailto:SMESoCal1850@gmail.com)  
by Thursday, March 26, 2020

**ABSTRACT:** With 58 million tons of production worldwide, Sodium Carbonate, or Soda Ash as it is more commonly known, is a commodity chemical produced and consumed on a global platform. Predominantly used in the manufacture of glass, detergents, and fertilizers, and for conversion to Sodium Bicarbonate (baking soda).

The majority of Soda Ash is derived from either the synthetic Soda Ash process (Solvay process) or from one of many natural soda processes. There are numerous synthetic Soda Ash plants spanning the globe with the majority of them residing in Europe and Asia. Natural soda ash deposits are rare, being predominantly found in the USA, Turkey, and Africa. This presentation will cover the production of synthetic and natural Sodium Carbonate via differing process routes across the globe, and will provide insight into how this bulk commodity chemical is manufactured and distributed worldwide.



*Karl will also provide an update on the 2019 Ridgecrest earthquake and its effects on Searles' operations*

**BIOGRAPHY:** Karl Cleary is a chemical engineer who began making synthetic Soda Ash at the age of 18 in the United Kingdom, with what later became Tata Chemicals Europe. He served in various operational, technical, commissioning, and management roles with Tata for nearly 31 years. During this time he was seconded to Magadi Soda Company, where he had the pleasure of commissioning a new natural Soda facility in the Rift Valley, Kenya.

He returned to Europe to work at the UK plant in senior management roles, while also managing the commissioning of a new Sodium Bicarbonate plant in Delfzijl (Netherlands).

Karl moved to Green River, Wyoming in 2015, becoming Engineering Manager and then Surface Operations Director for Soda Ash production, managing 250 personnel and producing 2.5 million tons of Soda Ash.

Karl is currently the Strategic Investment Manager at Searles Valley Minerals in Trona, California, a pivotal position working towards the future success of Searles' product portfolio.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming Dinner Meetings of the SoCal Section of SME.

Date	Location	Speaker/Topic	Sponsors
May 21	Dave & Busters, Ontario	York Smith, Lithium: Resources, Recovery, and Recycling	TBD
September 10	Dave & Busters, Ontario	TBD	TBD
October 8	Dave & Busters, Ontario	TBD	TBD