

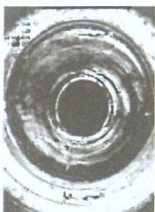
MINE SUBSIDENCE DAMAGES WELLS & REQUIRES A SAFETY BUFFER

CASING FAILURE

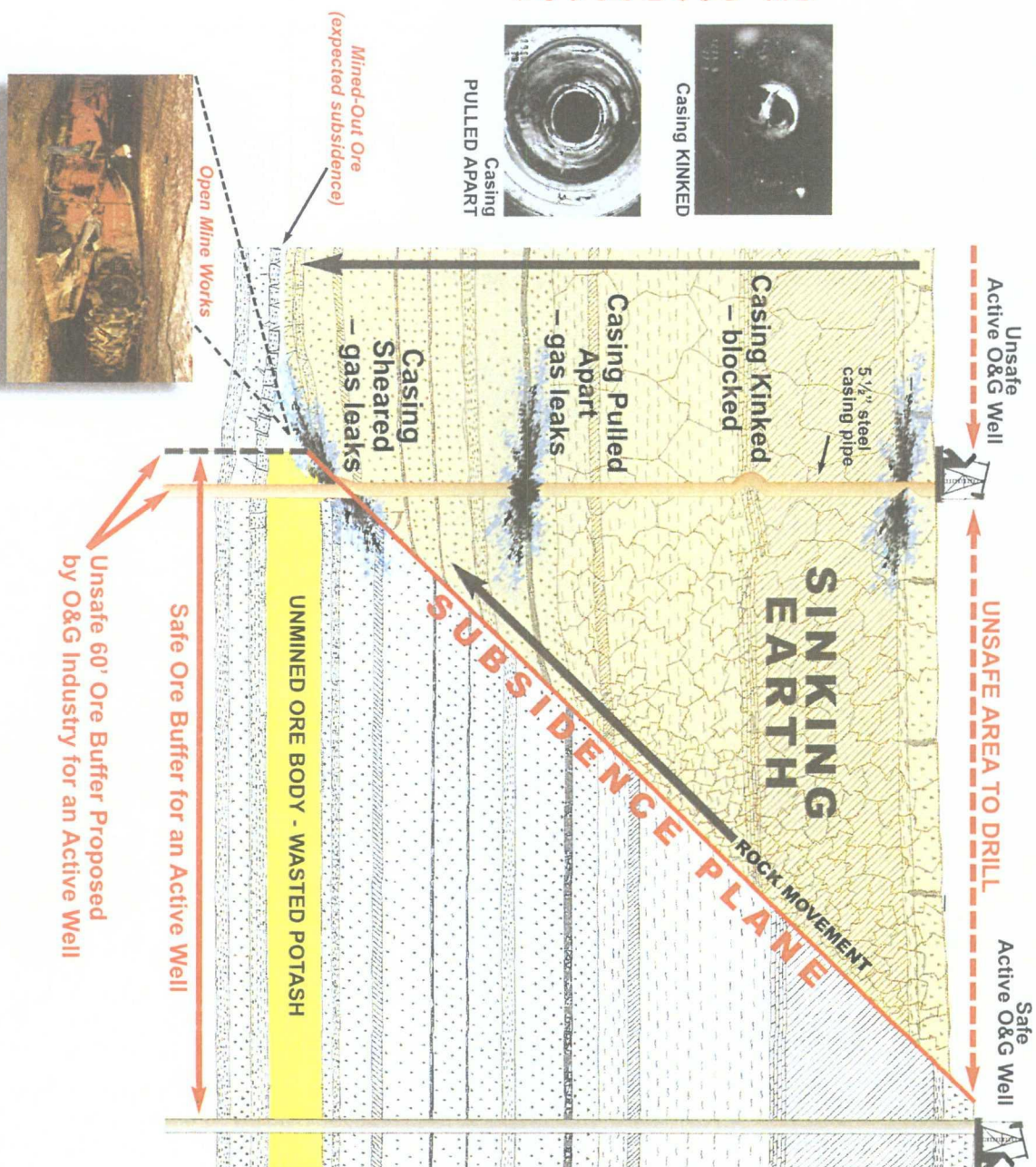
Sinking earth damages the casing of any active well lying within the subsidence zone (i.e., that lies too close to the mine).



Casing KINKED



Casing PULLED APART



NO COMPREHENSIVE STUDY HAS BEEN DONE IN THE POTASH AREA TO DETERMINE A SAFE BUFFER SIZE FOR ACTIVE WELLS AND PLUGGED/ABANDONED WELLS — CURRENT STANDARDS FOR ACTIVE WELLS WERE **NEGOTIATED**

The subsidence plane begins at the top edge of the open mine workings and extends upward and outward all the way to the surface. This forces miners to leave a safety buffer of unmined potash between the mine and an active well to prevent subsidence from reaching the well. The State of New Mexico requires a minimum $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile safety buffer for active wells. But these standards were arrived at by negotiation and not as a result of a comprehensive safety study, and are still not as protective as modern buffer standards in other parts of the world. The oil and gas industry has proposed only a 60 foot safety buffer for active wells, which is clearly unsafe.