UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Review and Activities

World Mining Congress

`Turning Coal Mine Methane into an Asset: Implementing Best Practices and Policies`

20 June 2018, Astana, Kazakhstan

Michal Drabik, UNECE Secretariat
Discourse on energy and climate change is usually based on emotions rather than the truth.

There is a need for open and honest discussion on energy that is based on facts.
➢ Fossil fuels today: 80% of primary energy and key to energy access.
➢ In 2050, even under a 2 degree scenario, fossil energy will represent 40% of the energy mix.
➢ We are headed for a 4 degree climate change scenario.
➢ SDG7: is not about “clean energy”, but about “sustainable, reliable, modern, accessible, and affordable” energy.
➢ There are 17 SDGs, not just SDG13.
➢ Without fossil fuels, SDGs will not be achieved.
Certain options for improving the performance of the energy system are arbitrarily excluded.

We don’t have the luxury to reject any solution.

Low emissions are better than high ones.

Reduction of the carbon footprint of the coal industry does not need to happen by its closure.

There are:

- HELE technologies,
- CCS,
- CMM.
Coal Mine Methane

➢ Capture and use of CMM is among the most effective near-term options to minimize the carbon footprint of the mining sector.

➢ It mitigates climate change, but also:
  ➢ enhances mine safety and productivity;
  ➢ localizes energy production;
  ➢ improves local/regional air quality;
  ➢ serves as a catalyst for investment.
Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Best Practice Guidance

➢ Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines
  ➢ First edition: 2010;

➢ In 2011, ECOSOC invited UN Member States, International Organizations, and the Regional Commissions to take measures to ensure the application of BPG in countries worldwide.
Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
International Centres of Excellence on CMM

- Operate under the auspices of UNECE and in partnership with local specialized entities;
- Members and their institutions and companies are repositories of knowledge;
- Promote best practices developed by the Group;
- Facilitate international communication and cooperation in the field of CMM;
- Identify new good practices.
Problem of emissions persists throughout the whole coal-mining life cycle.

There is huge potential for GHG reduction in proper AMM management.

AMM will be a focal point for the Group in 2018-2019.
Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane  
Project on Transition of the Energy Sector

➢ Joint project of all Groups of Experts operating under the umbrella of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy.

➢ A tool for assisting UNECE member States in delivering on effective transition to low-carbon energy and green economy.
Who are the members of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane?
The group of experts are professionals trained and practicing many disciplines—we are:

- scientists,
- engineers,
- economists,
- miners,
- lawyers,
- government officers,
- members of NGOs,
- politicians,
- equipment manufacturers,
- …

from the member states of the United Nations

Many of us and our organizations are also members GMI
Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
The Community

➢ The largest coal producing nations are members of GMI and/or UNECE GoE and three of the larges provide strong leadership and support.

➢ Collaboration between government and the private sector is a driving force of both organizations. Leading experts come from both the public and private sector. They are at the forefront of the “best practices movement”.

➢ Inclusiveness, dialogue, exchange, cooperation.
Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane Activities

Activities (2018-2019)
Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Dissemination of Best Practices

➢ Workshops:
  ➢ Colombia (Summer 2018);
  ➢ Georgia (Q4 2018 or 2019);
  ➢ Ukraine (2019);
  ➢ Turkey (2019).

➢ Seminars:
  ➢ Poland (February 2018);
  ➢ Canada - GMF (April 2018);
  ➢ Kazakhstan - World Mining Congress (June 2018);
  ➢ Ukraine - International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (November 2018);
  ➢ COP24, Poland (December 2018) (?)
Problem of emissions persists regardless of mode of mining and throughout the whole coal-mining life cycle.

Proper management of AMM could be a cost-effective means of reducing GHG emissions.

In many countries problem of mine closure is gradually more challenging.

The Group works on the document identifying best practices for effective Abandoned Mine Methane capture and use.
Modernization cannot be avoided or delayed.

It is in states’ best interest to undertake the process in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

A tool to facilitate an effective transition to low-carbon energy and green economy through helping states to plan approaches to modernizing their mining and energy sectors.

Objective to explore a great potential that lies in transformation of large industrial complexes.

The initial stage: a plan for modernization of fossil fuel based industrial sites by reorienting them towards modern technologies and more efficient use of available resources.

The subsequent stage: a robust and flexible business model for efficient industrial site’s transition, replicable in other industrial sites in like countries or regions.
XB Project on *Dissemination of best practices in the abatement, recovery, and use of methane*

- Continuation of the first phase of the project delivered throughout the 2016-2017 biennium;
- Mandate: ECOSOC decision 2011/222;
- Sponsor: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;
- Grant: $200,000;
- Duration: Jan 2018 – Dec 2019;
- Project implementation in cooperation with Global Methane Initiative.
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http://www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html
Thank you!

Sustainable Energy Division
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