



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Working Party on Gas and
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Workshop on Geomechanical and Geodynamic Aspects of
High-Efficiency Extraction of Coalmine and Coalbed Methane
St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
20-22 September 2006

INFORMATION NOTICE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with the decisions taken by the Economic Commission for Europe Working Party on Gas at its sixteenth session and by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane at its second session, both held in Geneva in January 2006, the Workshop on the above topic will be held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 20 to 22 September 2006.

II. PURPOSES OF THE WORKSHOP

2. The purpose of the workshop is to define the most appropriate technologies and practices for the development of more efficient and effective production of methane from coal seams (coalbed methane or CBM) and methane degasification of coal mines (coal mine methane or CMM) for the purposes of developing unconventional energy resources, ensuring safe mining operations and improving the investment climate for such projects.

III. WORKSHOP ORGANISERS

3. The workshop is being organised by the UNECE Working Party on Gas, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and the Gas Centre, together with the Russian public joint-stock companies “PROMGAZ” and “VNIMI” and in cooperation with the Russian Ministries of Education and Science, Industry and Energy, Federal Energy Agency, “Rostekhnadzor”, “Severstalresurs”, “Siberian Coal Energy Company (SUEK)” and others.

IV. DATE AND VENUE

4. The workshop will be held from 20 to 22 September 2006 in St. Petersburg (Hotel “Pribaltiyskaya” and VNIMI Institute).

V. MAIN TOPICS OF THE WORKSHOP

5. The main topics of the workshop will be:

Topic 1. Improving the recovery efficiency of coalbed methane production from unmined coal seams:

- Technologies for the exploration of methane-bearing coal deposits for the purpose of selecting the most promising production areas;
- Identification of methane-bearing coal seams with high production potential;
- Optimal technologies used for enhanced gas production from coal seams under certain geological and mining conditions.

Topic 2. Improving the efficiency of methane extraction from active and abandoned coal mines:

- Technologies for the control of rock and gas pressure and assessing the permeability of the coal seams and subsurface strata;
- Technologies for the degassing of coal seams;
- Methods for enhanced gas production and complete extraction of the methane.

Topic 3. Utilisation of high-quality and low-quality mine methane (Round Table):

- Methods of underground coal degasification resulting in production of CMM at concentrations greater than 30% over the near-term and long-term.
- CMM preparation and transportation methods, including removal of moisture and dust.
- Stabilizing the composition, flow rate and pressure of CMM.

- Utilization of high-quality and low-quality CMM:
 - Heat and electric power generation in centralized and decentralized heat and electric power supply systems.
 - Employing commercially available technologies to increase the methane concentration in low-quality CMM.

VI. PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

6. The following provisional programme is proposed:

Tuesday, 19 September – arrival of participants

Wednesday, 20 September

10.00 – 10.30 – Opening of the Workshop

10.30 – 11.30 – Session 1

11.30 – 11.50 – Coffee break

11.50 – 13.00 – Session 1 (contnd.)

13.00 – 15.00 – Lunch

15.00 – 16.30 – Sessions 1 and 2

16.30 – 16.50 – Coffee break

16.50 – 18.00 – Sessions 1 and 2 (contnd.)

Thursday, 21 September

10.00 – 11.30 – Session 2 (contnd.)

11.30 – 11.50 – Coffee break

11.50 – 13.00 – Session 2 (contnd.)

13.00 – 15.00 – Lunch

15.00 – 18.00 – Visits to VNIMI Institute and St. Petersburg' Mining and Geological Institute (Mineralogical Museum)

Friday, 22 September

10.00 – 12.00 – Round Table

12.00 – 13.00 – Conclusions and recommendations, closing of the workshop

13.00 – 15.00 – Lunch

15.00 – Sightseeing tours in St. Petersburg and its suburbs.

Saturday, 23 September – departure of participants

VII. WORKING LANGUAGES

7. The working languages of the workshop will be Russian and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

VIII. REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

8. For the preparation of a detailed programme of the workshop including the list of participants and in order to be able to ensure the availability of rooms in the Conference Hotel, you are kindly requested to complete the attached Registration Form (Annex 1) and to send it to the indicated addresses at your earliest convenience, **but not later than 15 June 2006**.

IX. REGISTRATION FEE

9. There is no registration fee for participation in the workshop. Hotel accommodation, transfer, meals and cultural activities (excursions) are to be paid by participants themselves. Additional information on costs for these items can be found in Section XI.

X. PAPERS DEADLINE AND REQUIREMENTS

10. In order for the Organisers to be able to prepare the advanced copies of the reports for the workshop, you are kindly requested to send an electronic version of your report to the following address: post@vnimi.ru, **not later than 15 June 2006**. Late submission of a paper may result in that paper being excluded from the final proceedings.

Papers should be submitted in A4 format, in English or Russian languages. Reports in Russian should be accompanied with a short summary in English. Reports will be reproduced in an original version, (including summary in English).

English or Russian versions of the text should be in Word for Windows programme, Times New Roman, 12 point, single spaced. Margins: top - 2 cm, bottom - 2 cm, left - 3cm and right - 1.5 cm. Any graphics with accompanying text should be submitted in a separate file.

XI. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

11. The venue of the workshop will be the four-star "Pribaltiyskaya Hotel in St. Petersburg (<http://www.pribaltiyskaya.com>) where a sufficient number of rooms has been blocked at special rates :

- Single Rom - \$ 110
- Double Room - \$ 130
- De Luxe - \$ 190
- Apartment (Suite) -\$ 285

This price includes breakfast but does not include lunch (\$ 15) and dinner (\$ 15). Also, the organisers propose a transfer from the airport (railway station) to the Hotel at a price of \$ 40.

XII. VISA

12. If you require a visa to enter the Russian Federation, the conference organizers will prepare a letter of invitation at your request. Please ensure that you allow sufficient time for receipt of the letter of invitation and processing of your visa.

Annex I

REGISTRATION FORM

Workshop on Geomechanical and Geodynamic Aspects of
High-Efficiency Extraction of Coal Mine and Coalbed Methane
St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
20-22 September 2006

**Please complete this form and return it at your earliest convenience,
but preferably, not later than 15 June 2006 to the following addresses:**

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Surname _____ First name _____

Country/Organization _____

Position/Title _____

Mailing address _____

Tel. _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

I wish to present a paper (topic, title) _____

Accompanying person (s) _____

Arrival in St. Petersburg on _____ September, flight No. _____ time: _____

I wish that you meet me at the airport _____(YES) _____(NO)

I wish to book a room in the Pribaltiyskaya Hotel, from _____

to _____ September 2006 (_____ nights).

Date _____ Signature _____