



UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Update for Extended Bureau of the
Committee on Sustainable Energy



CLARK TALKINGTON
SECRETARIAT
14 DECEMBER 2005





UNECE PROGRAMME ON COAL

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development

CAPACT Project

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Task Force on Economic Benefits Improving Mine Safety Through Extraction & Use Of CMM



AGHE on Coal Mine Methane & Task Force on Mine Safety

- **AHGE on Coal Mine Methane**
 - 1st Meeting - 6 December 2004
 - Next meetings
 - 2nd Meeting - 31 January - 1 February 2006
 - 3rd Meeting - 15-16 November 2006
- **Task Force on Mine Safety**
 - 1st Meeting – 29 April 2005
 - Next meetings
 - 2nd Meeting - 30 January
 - 3rd Meeting - 14 November 2006



Coal Mine Methane Capture and Use

- Sources
 - Mine degasification systems
 - Mine ventilation shafts
 - Abandoned mines
 - Surface mines
- Benefits
 - Mine safety
 - Local and regional energy production
 - Revenues and/or cost savings for mine operations
 - Air quality benefits
 - Reduction of greenhouse gases
 - Local health and safety



AGHE on Coal Mine Methane

- Focus on overcoming barriers to increase the utilization of drained methane from mine degasification systems
- Many ECE countries have history of CMM utilization but large volumes continue to be emitted to the atmosphere
- Range of technical, economic, institutional, and legal barriers remain
- To be effective, AHGE on CMM will concentrate on limited set of issues



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Targeted Issues

- **Project finance (Extra-budgetary project)**
 - Identify 3-6 projects over 3-year period in CEE & CIS
 - Assist projects with development of investment grade documents and presentation before EE21 and other investment funds
 - Regional workshops and information dissemination
 - Transfer lessons learned from experience with pilot projects
 - Build capacity of government and industry officials to better understand and apply financial engineering principles
 - Project website, publications, and tool kit to assist project developers
- **Standardization of terminology and technical standards**
 - Terminology and standards vary by country which is confusing for investors and project developers
 - Standardization will enhance efforts to develop projects
 - In cooperation with Methane to Markets Partnership
- **Use of CMM in the explosive range**
- **Effective methane drainage – Task Force on Mine Safety**



Task Force on Mine Safety

- **Small task force to stay focused**
 - **Most ECE member countries with CMM resources are represented**
 - **Non-ECE countries including Australia, China, India, Vietnam**
 - **International Labour Office**
 - **Mix of government, industry, and multilateral organizations**
- **At first meeting Task Force identified two primary work elements:**
 - **Support work of ILO to revise ILO guidance on mine safety**
 - **Develop general guidelines for successful methane degasification programmes**
 - **Create template for case studies**
 - **Prepare country-specific case studies to examine successful and unsuccessful programs**
 - **Develop guidelines to assist government officials and the mining industry to adapt successful degasification strategies to their specific mining, geologic, and economic conditions**
 - **Through the AHGE on CMM, work closely with government and industry officials to incorporate the guidelines into existing regulatory programs**



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Contact Information

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Clark Talkington

clark.talkington@unece.org