UNECE Activities in Promoting Coal Mine Methane (CMM)

18th Session

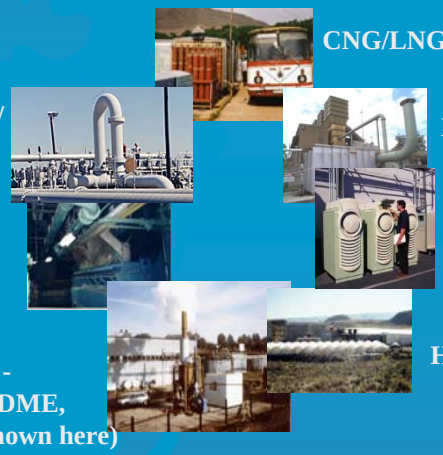
UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy

18-20 November 2009

What is Coal Mine Methane (CMM)?

CMM is the methane released from coal seams during mining. Once emitted to the atmosphere, it becomes a potent greenhouse gas.

Many Uses



CNG/LNG

Natural Gas Pipeline/ Town Gas

Mine Ventilation Air

Internal Combustion Engines

Microturbines

Heating

Manufacturing - Eg., Methanol, DME, Desalination (shown here)

Many Benefits

- Improved mine safety and productivity
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Productive use of an otherwise wasted energy resource
- Additional revenue centre
- Skilled job creation
- Positive corporate image

UNECE
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on CMM

Programme of Work:

- Mine Safety
- Co-operation
- Project Finance (2005-2008)
- New mandate 2009-2010

Project Finance

Extra-budgetary project to facilitate financing of CMM projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

US-EPA grant successfully completed in 2008

Future activities may best focus on:

- Improved gas drainage and safe management
- Understanding what is the technical potential for safe gas drainage and transportation;
- Project execution: improve project delivery.
- Market identification.
- Stakeholders View of UNECE Involvement:
  - ✓ Investors/Financial community - positive
  - ✓ Mining companies/project sponsors – future beneficiaries
  - ✓ Governments - generally positive

Mine Safety

- Viewed as highest priority by Group of Experts

- Cooperative Project on Methane Capture and Use to Improve Mine Safety: *Best practice guidance on Effective Methane Capture and use at Coal Mines*
  - **Public-Private-Multilateral Partnership (UNECE-M2M-WCI)**

Best Practice Guidance for

Effective Methane Drainage and Use at Coal Mines

- 3rd Session of AHGE – legislation and regulations pertaining to CMM drainage & use; coal industry lacks principles-based good practice guidance.

- 4th Session of AHGE – best practice guidance; approved by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its 17th Session, November 2008.

- 5th session of the AHGE – draft report presented to AHGE and received positive feedbacks and comments.

- Technical Peer Review – Nov. 2009.
- Final editing and Publication of report: ECE Energy Series (1Q 2010).
- Launch of publication and dissemination (M2M Expo, India, March 2010).
- Associated workshops, seminars (April 2010-2011)

Project Goal

'Support safer mining practices to reduce fatalities, injuries and property losses, whilst also encouraging use of the CMM to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and use otherwise wasted energy resources'

Project aims to:

- Strive toward goal of zero fatalities, injuries and property losses.
- Demonstrate the global coal industry's commitment to mine safety, climate change mitigation, corporate social responsibility and good citizenship.
- Establish an industry-to-industry dialogue and network.
- Create the necessary linkage between the industry and government/regulatory officials.
- Link effective CMM capture as a part of an effective risk management portfolio.

Complementary, Not Duplicative

- Number of bilateral and multilateral initiatives to support improved mine safety:
  - UNDP – Strengthening Coal Mine Safety Capacity in China
  - ILO – Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Underground Coalmines
- Industry lacks set of recommended principles and standards for methane recovery and utilisation
- Audience: mine operators, regulators, government officials and technical professionals

Deliverables

- Publication of best practices guidance on methane drainage and utilisation
  - Detailed objectives and principles
    - NOT prescriptive
    - NOT a technical manual
  - References respected technical manuals
  - Chapters can also be stand-alone documents
  - Available in multiple languages
- Workshop / seminar series: Add value and disseminate findings

Structure

Sponsoring Organizations
Steering Committee
Expert Drafting Group
Stakeholder Advisory Group
Technical Peer Review

Cooperation

- **US EPA**
- **Methane to Markets Partnership**
  - **M2M** sub-committee, 5th sessions AHGE, October 2009
- **WCI**
- **UNDP**
- **ILO**
  - **Mine safety**

Thank You!

Mr. S. Shumkov, Vice-Chairman

Ms. C. Segre, Secretary

UNECE Ad Hoc Group of Experts

on Coal Mine Methane

www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html