

Agenda item 8:

Update on the extra-budgetary project: “Coal Mine Safety and Life Support Systems”

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Eighth Session
Geneva, 29 April 2013

Project document highlights

- Project document available as a room document
- Two principal project objectives:
 - To act preventively and avoid methane-related coal mine accidents through a better management of methane, coal dust and other hazards inherent to underground coal mining by implementation of best practices
 - To minimize fatalities and other damage through a better use of life support systems
- These two, mutually-reinforcing objectives are to be accomplished through an extended visit to reference coal mines in order to:
 - Audit the safety practices at the reference coal mine and get to the root of safety challenges that place the mine at risk
 - Improve the conditions at the mine by encouraging the implementation of best practices, to ensure increased safety, lowered methane emissions, and higher productivity and profitability

Project chronology

- 11 October 2011 - AHGE on CMM established a Steering Committee to look into implementation modalities
- 27 October 2011 - ExCom endorsed the project
- 9 March 2012 – Chair Pilcher, on behalf of the SC, proposed a new implementation plan—subject to review by RF DoE—that envisioned to add the remaining E-141 funds to E-187 to create a pool of \$140,000
- 5 June 2012 - the secretariat informed by PM of RF that funding of this project was not authorized until further notice
- September 2012 – Planned visit to Kemerovo (Coal Expo) by international experts, to jumpstart the project, cancelled due to lack of funds
- 11 March 2013 - The Russian MoE set up a team of experts to assist UNECE in implementing the project. Two coal mines that faced accident recently were identified: Vorkutinskaya Mine and Mine №7 SUEK in Kuzbass
- Ongoing - the secretariat is working the RF MFA, RF MoE, PM of RF in Geneva, and others to resolve the funding issue

Is there a mandate for this project?

Informal consultation excerpt on CMM :

“If the activities carried out by ECE coal mine methane experts reveal broader safety issues, they may communicate these to the ILO for consideration in its coal mine safety guidelines.”

The Executive Committee meeting of 27 October 2011:

“The extra-budgetary projects funded by contributions from the Russian Federation as contained in Informal document 2011/20 were endorsed.”