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Activities in Promoting Coal Mine Methane (CMM)

**UNECE Steering Committee
of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project**

20th Session, 3-5 June 2009

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Ad Hoc Group of Experts on CMM

Programme of Work:

- New mandate 2009-2010
- Project Finance
- Mine Safety
- Downstream CMM Utilisation
- Cooperation (US-EPA, ILO, WCI)

Project Finance

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

- **Project brought useful insights into market barriers**
- **Future activities may best focus on:**
 - **Improved gas drainage and safe management**
 - First step to understand technical potential for safe gas drainage and transportation
 - Then identify and work with a few mines to improve drainage/transportation
 - Showcase potential: requires mines open to this
 - **Project execution: improve project delivery**
 - First step is recognizing projects have many technological risks
 - Second, identify main risks and outline approaches to minimize these
 - Ideally, showcase effective implementation at a few different projects
 - **Market identification: while potential with big operators is known, discover “second tier”**
 - Need information/contacts at the company/mine level, not country-level
 - “Second tier” includes technical options, most prominent are technologies to harness ventilation air methane
 - Work with mine-level experts to identify and develop potential
 - **Project finance:**
 - **All of the above actions would help to identify projects that may be developed for finance facilitated by UNECE**

Project Finance

Stakeholders View of UNECE Involvement

- **Investors/Financial community - positive**
 - Projects vetted by credible organization
 - Neutral role in market stimulation
 - UN endorsement is positive for public relations
- **Mining companies/project sponsors – future beneficiaries**
 - Public nature of cooperation difficult
 - Large companies do not believe they need assistance
 - Want more engineering support for methane degasification to enhance safety – UNECE currently does not have this capacity
 - Do see benefit of positive public image associated with UN
- **Governments - generally positive**
 - Very supportive of training
 - See UN as another vehicle for supporting mine safety and environmental protection

Mine Safety



- Viewed as highest priority by Group of Experts
- Reviewing legal/regulatory frameworks to promote sound degasification practices and making link between upstream and downstream improvements
- Cooperative Project on Methane Capture and Use to Improve Mine Safety: best practice guidance on methane control (UNECE-M2M-WCI)

Cooperative Project on Methane Capture and Use to Improve Mine Safety

PPPs between:

- Methane to Markets Partnership
- UN Economic Commission for Europe
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- World Coal Institute

Project background



- **Methane released during coal mining cause of a significant number of accidents globally**
- **Risk factors identified:**
 - Difficult geological conditions
 - Underinvestment in methane drainage and utilisation
 - Poor operational practices
 - Ineffective or counter-productive regulatory standards
 - Inadequate enforcement of safety regulations

Partnership's Goals



‘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 between the industries from the developed economies and those in the emerging economies
- Create the necessary linkage between the industry and government/regulatory officials
- Link effective CMM capture as a part of an effective risk management portfolio

Deliverables

- **Publication of best practices guidance on methane drainage and utilisation**
- **Primarily a technical document**
- **Detailed objectives and principles, NOT prescriptive**
- **Available in multiple languages**
- **Supportive workshop / seminar series: add value and disseminate findings**
- **Reveal potential projects to feed the EE21 pipeline**

Thank You!



Ms. Carlotta Segre

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