

Presently in Poland we are at the stage of the discussion at the Ministry of Economy level „how to increase amount of methane capture and its efficient utilization in Polish hard coal mines”. The conclusion is to establish appropriate economic incentives, which could improve the situation.

The proposals to be discussed are the following:

a. The support system should be based on the same rules as for the renewable sources of energy support system, without necessity of production the energy in the cogeneration as :

- Present support system based on production the energy from CMM in high coogeration is effective only couple months per year, when there is demand for the heat, and number of potential heat buyers throughout the year is very limited,
- the extent of the heat pipelines quite contrary to the power grid is rather local what puts limitation on its capacity.

b. Increase the value of the supplementary fee used in the present support system as :

- Methane capture from the coal seams can vary a lot and can not be predicted very precisely what results in the situation that not all drainage gas has appropriate – commercial methane content,
- Coal companies do not recognize CMM as a source of energy but first of all as the hazard and that is why the presently agreed value of the supplementary fee does not motivate them very much to increase methane capture. Present methane capture is at the level, which sufficiently provides safe mining conditions.

c. Establish the support system for the development and utilization VAM as :

- The VAM installations are still recognized as very capital-intensive,
- Methane contained in the ventilation air (VAM) constitutes about 70% of total methane realized during coal exploitation and is considerably important source of energy,
- There is several problems connected with development of VAM like: low admissible methane content in the ventilation shafts i.e. 0.75% (in the reality about 0.5%) resulting from Polish safety regulations, very big ventilation air volumes flows (in average shaft size about 10,000 m³/min), as well as fluctuations of the content and flow connected mainly with the progress of the coal mining operations.