



GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE COAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

13th Session of the Coal Subcommittee
20 June 2011
Webinar and Teleconference

FINAL MINUTES

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Coal Subcommittee held its 13th session on 20 June 2011 via webinar and teleconference. Attendees discussed updates from the Administrative Support Group (ASG), including country-specific action plans, the Third Expo (scheduled for late 2012), and the in-person Partnership-wide October 2011 meeting. Representatives from Partner countries as well as the Project Network shared updates relating to coal mine methane (CMM) activities. The Subcommittee also discussed the technical agenda for the October 2011 meeting.

The following sections provide more details of the meeting discussions.

Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Coal Subcommittee met for the first time via webinar and teleconference. The meeting was attended by GMI Partner country delegates, Project Network members, and ASG staff. Thirty-two people, representing 11 countries, were present. A list of attendees is included as Annex 1 to these minutes. The meeting was opened at 7:00 am Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Presiding over the meeting was:

- Co-chair Dr. Pamela Franklin, team leader of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA's) Coalbed Methane Outreach Program (CMOP).
- Acting Co-chair Mr. Liu Wenge of the China Coal Information Institute (CCII).
- Acting Co-chair Mr. Baidyanath (B.N.) Prasad of India's Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI).

Dr. Franklin opened the meeting by expressing her appreciation for everyone's attendance at the Coal Subcommittee's first webinar and teleconference meeting, noting she was especially appreciative of those attending at very early or very late hours in their home countries. She indicated that webinar and teleconference meetings would allow the Subcommittee to touch base, while saving time and travel money. She noted this type of meeting is not a substitute for meeting in person and expressed the value of those in-person meetings. She indicated the Subcommittee will continue to meet in person in the future, but can also use the webinar and teleconference option to meet when necessary. She noted the past eight months have been busy at the U.S. EPA, and she expressed sincere interest in hearing the updates from the Subcommittee members during this meeting, on both individual CMM efforts and joint efforts among countries and groups. She then invited acting Co-chair Liu Wenge and acting Co-chair B.N. Prasad to give opening remarks.

Mr. Prasad indicated that Co-Chair Mr. A.K. Singh was sorry to miss the Subcommittee meeting, but had another pressing engagement. Mr. Prasad noted that he would update the group on India's activities.

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Mr. Liu Wenge welcomed the group on behalf of Co-Chair Dr. Huang Shengchu, who could not attend the meeting due to another important meeting. Mr. Liu Wenge indicated that he was looking forward to the webinar and teleconference format and thought it would allow the Subcommittee to improve future communication. He thanked the ASG staff for the support in making this meeting happen.

Introductions of country delegates, Project Network members, and other attendees followed. Dr. Franklin presented the agenda and proposed that, following the discussion of the October 2011 meeting technical agenda, Mr. Ray Pilcher [Chairman, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane] provide an update on the Group's efforts to disseminate the *Best Practices Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines* (hereafter referred to as *Best Practices*). With this addition, attendees unanimously adopted the agenda. A copy of the final agenda is included as Annex 2 of these minutes.

Update from the Administrative Support Group

Ms. Monica Shimamura, with U.S. EPA, introduced herself as the new Co-Director of the ASG for GMI. She indicated she will be working with Mr. Henry Ferland and is replacing Ms. Ashley King. She provided an update on the ASG's activities since the October 2010 Coal Subcommittee meeting in Beijing.

- The Partnership's new name and framework as the Global Methane Initiative has been successful.
 - There are 39 Partners to date and membership continues to expand.
 - Jordan was approved in April 2011.
 - Sri Lanka, which will become GMI's 40th Partner, is pending approval from the Steering Committee.
 - Neither of these two new Partners will be part of the Coal Subcommittee at this time.
 - The ASG updated the *Partnership* and *Mitigation* fact sheets with GMI's new name and purpose. These fact sheets are available on GMI's website (www.globalmethane.org), have been translated into several languages, and are open to feedback for improvement.
 - The ASG is in the process of updating the sector-specific fact sheets and other documents.
 - The ASG continues to explore the best way to engage the wastewater sector. Chris Godlove is providing updates on this sector during the Landfill Subcommittee meetings until there is enough interest to make wastewater its own sector. It will be included in the upcoming U.S. EPA grant solicitation in July 2011. The ASG is hoping that some countries will band together to begin work in this sector.
- In October 2010, the Steering Committee tasked the ASG with developing guidance to help Partners develop country-specific action plans.
 - The guidance was distributed the week of 23 May 2011.
 - The ASG is seeking feedback from Partner Countries on the draft guidance by the end of June.
 - The ASG intends to finalize the guidance at the next Steering Committee meeting in late 2011.
- The next Partnership-wide meeting will take place 12-14 October 2011 in Krakow, Poland.
 - The meeting will include:
 - Sector-specific technical and policy sessions.
 - Subcommittee and Steering Committee meetings.
 - Site tours.
 - The ASG is open to comments and suggestions to make this meeting successful.

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- GMI will hold the Third Expo in late 2012.
 - The ASG is seeking a host country for this meeting and asked that any interested countries contact the ASG (asg@globalmethane.org).
 - Same basic framework as the previous Expos (e.g., concurrent sector-specific sessions, site visits, exhibition hall, project opportunities).

Partner Country and Project Network Updates

Following the ASG updates, country representatives were asked to provide the Subcommittee with updates on their countries' CMM activities since the last Subcommittee meeting and plans for the rest of 2011. Presentations submitted by country representatives to accompany their discussions can be found on the GMI website, at: <http://www.globalmethane.org/news-events/event_detailsByEventId.aspx?eventId=339>. Brief summaries of each update are provided below.

Australia

Ms. Nicole Thomas (Australia's Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism) indicated that not much has changed since the October 2010 meeting with regard to Australia's methane emissions. From fugitive emissions from coal mines, there were 29 megatonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent in 2009, which equates to 5 percent of Australia's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This consists mostly of methane from underground mining, which is the most prevalent in Australia, and also from open-cut mining.

Ms. Thomas indicated that there is no concrete news on Australia's climate policy. In the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), there was a proposal included for a fund to assist the development of projects to reduce CMM emissions, but it was not supported. The Australian Government is still working to finalize a carbon pricing mechanism, which will start on 1 July 2012. They have proposed a fixed priced for three to five years which will transition to a cap and trade system. There will be no international linking until the cap and trade system is introduced. The scheme will have a broad coverage, including fugitive emissions, but it is yet to be determined how fugitive methane emissions will be treated under the new mechanism and if there will be any funding support to reduce these emissions. All of this policy is in development and will hopefully be more final later in 2011. Mr. John Karas (Australia's Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism) indicated he hopes to be able to provide a better understanding on how the industry will be affected by the new carbon pricing scheme at the October 2011 meeting.

China

Mr. Liu Wenge (CCII) indicated he would provide an update on China's coalbed methane (CBM) and CMM activities, including data and achievements from the past year and policy changes and developments happening this year. In 2010, the CMM drainage volume was 7.35 billion cubic meters (bcm) and utilization of CMM was 2.5 bcm. He noted that more than one million families are using CBM or CMM as a household fuel. The installed capacity of CMM power plants exceeded 1000 megawatts (MW) in 2010. China has found that CMM drainage is correlated directly to improved safety. Over the past few years, as CMM drainage volume has increased, mine fatalities have decreased, and coal mine safety has improved greatly.

New developments in CBM and CMM in China include:

- CBM transportation pipelines from Jincheng to Changzhi were built and tested. These pipelines will encourage CBM and CMM development.

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- Four ministries and commissions jointly issued a notice that China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (SINOPEC), and Henan Provincial Coal Seam Development and Utilization Co., Ltd. were authorized to have the exclusive right for CBM foreign cooperation. Four companies will hold this right, including China United Coalbed Methane (CUCBM).
- The China National Offshore Oil Corporation became a shareholder of CUCBM.

New government policies have also been developed. Standards are being developed to establish guidelines for CBM and CMM utilization, including use in the household and use of compressed CBM as vehicle fuel. China's 12th five-year economic and industry development plan, which includes a plan for CMM/CBM, sets a target that CBM and CMM total drainage volume will reach 22 billion cubic meters annually within the next five years, (10 bcm from CBM and 12 bcm from CMM each year).

Colombia

Ms. Carolina Tenjo from Colombia indicated that she did not have information to share about CMM in Colombia at this time, but Colombia is interested in participating in the GMI Coal Subcommittee. She indicated she hopes to learn more about the opportunities for methane reductions from coal mines in Colombia through the Coal Subcommittee meetings.

India

Mr. B.N. Prasad (CMPDI) welcomed the group again and sent best wishes to GMI from Co-chair Mr. A.K. Singh. Mr. Prasad noted the government of India has awarded 33 CBM development blocks to a variety of operators through an open international bidding system and early production has started from four blocks. Production is now at 0.2 million cubic meters (mcm) per day, and there is good CBM production potential in the other allotted blocks so production is increasing very rapidly. Additional CBM blocks—which will be available for open international bidding—are announced through the newspaper and different media, and bid documents are available when the blocks are announced.

India is a very large producer of coal so CMM will always be a problem. The opportunities and challenges are different in India than China because they want to target coal seams lying below worked out seams. Coal mining is less mechanized and the rate of advancement of the faces is slow. Sometimes the cumulative thickness of the coal seam exceeds 100 meters. CMPDI, on behalf of Coal India, has released a global agenda for CMM development in five identified blocks. The last date of submission of offers for these blocks is 15 July 2011. Information on fiscal and technical issues involved with the agenda is posted on CMPDI's website.

India is also meeting the basic objectives of the India CBM/CMM Clearinghouse, which functions under the U.S. EPA and the Ministry of Coal in India. Mr. Prasad expressed his support for GMI and indicated it is time to exchange more technical knowledge and capabilities among member countries.

Indonesia

Mr. Miftahul Huda (R&D Centre for Coal and Mining Technology, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Republic Indonesia) indicated this is his first Coal Subcommittee meeting and that he hopes that Indonesia will learn a lot from this meeting and future meetings. He noted that Indonesia is a large exporter of steamcoal to Japan, Hong Kong, China, and other places. In Indonesia, there are many open pit coal mines, which have low-rank coal. They are having problems learning how to mitigate fugitive emissions from open face coal mines.

Last year, Indonesia began to identify CMM emissions from their coal mines. Since their coal is low-rank, Mr. Huda indicated that it has a low methane content. From their study, they found the ambient methane concentration in Indonesia coal mines was less than 4 parts per million (ppm), which is less than

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the concentration from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Standard. With their data, Mr. Huda would like to create a new standard for calculating CMM emissions. Mr. Huda noted that Indonesia is willing to cooperate with other institutions to research fugitive methane from coal mines. He hopes GMI can help teach Indonesia how to mitigate fugitive emissions.

- Dr. Franklin thanked Mr. Huda for his presentation and welcomed him to the Subcommittee. She noted the information was helpful to highlight research needs for the future and to understand how to collaborate further with Indonesia.
- Mr. Karas noted that Australia is facing similar issues with the difficulty in measuring emissions from open cut/pit mines. They have researched it in the same ways, developing different standards and defaults for different areas and regions. This issue is important to Australia because it affects carbon penalties. The industry is doing a lot of research in Australia to understand how to identify and measure actual emissions from open cut mines. The mechanisms are based on the content of coal seam methane. The incentive to do further research in this area is to ensure that, where methane emissions are less than the default, there is a mechanism for measuring these to reflect the true value. Australia will hopefully be able to provide data on this topic within the next few years as results from research become available. Australia's data will be beneficial to Indonesia. Mr. Karas offered to pass on Indonesia's presentation to Australia's technical consultant, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), so they can share research experiences with Mr. Huda. Mr. Huda welcomed this information and data from Australia on how to measure methane emissions more accurately.
- Ms. Tenjo asked how many pits were measured in Indonesia's study and if the ppm measured is an average from many pits or a quantity from a single pit. Mr. Huda indicated that they measured two coal mines at more than 20 locations. The value he provided is the average from many pits.

Mongolia

Dr. Badarch Mendbayar [Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium (MNEC)] indicated that the Mongolian Mining Corporation completed construction of its new coal handling and preparation plant with processing capacity of 5 million tonnes per year. Two additional phases of this plant will increase the capacity, beginning later in 2011 and in 2012.

The Mongolian Methane to Market Partnership Association (3MPA) was established in March 2011 to:

- Create a framework in Mongolia to reduce methane emissions.
- Advance recovery and use of methane as a clean energy source.
- Enhance economic growth, improve air quality, and improve industrial safety.
- Promote bilateral, multilateral, and private sector collaboration on methane abatement, recovery and use.
- Develop improved emissions estimates and identify the largest relevant emission sources to facilitate project development.

The 3MPA main activities for the last three months were organizing the inception meeting of members, translating GMI materials into the Mongolian language and distributing them among the public of Mongolia, organizing GMI public awareness activities, and participating in coal infrastructure and coal Mongolia conferences, organized by donors that help promote national capacity building on CMM.

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United States

Dr. Jayne Somers (U.S. EPA – Coalbed Methane Outreach Program [CMOP]) provided an update on the U.S. domestic strategy to reduce CMM emissions and international activities supported by the U.S. EPA through GMI.

Domestically, the United States (U.S.) is focusing on overcoming the regulatory and institutional barriers to project development through a technical exchange of information to U.S. coal mine project developers. U.S. EPA is coordinating with other government agencies such as the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, which is conducting definitional missions to Colombia, Mexico, Vietnam, and Turkey, and also the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of Energy, as well as some agencies that cover federal lands in the U.S.

CMOP had a successful conference in November 2010 in Birmingham, Alabama, during which they conducted site visits to two mines. Coal mines in the U.S. began collecting methane emissions data in January 2011, and they will begin reporting that data to U.S. EPA in 2012. This will help the U.S. better understand CMM emissions domestically.

Under GMI, U.S. EPA has been supporting a number of activities, including developing a white paper on flaring policy and updating the technology database. U.S. EPA has also updated and revised the “Country Profiles” on the GMI website for 37 countries, summarizing the coal sector and CMM in each country. U.S. EPA has also been supporting CMM project development by awarding grants. In 2009 and 2010, grants were awarded to China, India, Mongolia, and Poland. 2011 grant awardees will soon be announced. U.S. EPA also participated in the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development & Climate Coal Mining Task Force and supported some reporting activities for Hebi mine in China under this initiative.

In China, U.S. EPA has conducted several full-scale project feasibility assessments. Pre-feasibility studies for some projects have also been conducted, and U.S. EPA has helped develop project posters for the last two GMI Expos. Dr. Somers noted that U.S. EPA has also supported some technology demonstrations at a coal mine in Tiefa, China. U.S. EPA has awarded a number of grants in China for data collection and analyses and capacity building. The reports from this grant work are all posted to the CMOP website once they are received.

In India, U.S. EPA has been supporting the CBM/CMM Clearinghouse for three years. In February 2011, U.S. EPA visited India’s clearinghouse field and office activities, which are conducting gas analyses. U.S. EPA has also supported the development of CMM/CBM policies to clarify ownership and legal issues. A number of grants have been awarded in India as well.

In Mexico, U.S. EPA has funded one project studying liquefied natural gas (LNG) as the energy end product from CMM; this project should finish this year.

In Mongolia, U.S. EPA funded a pre-feasibility study of a potential CMM project at the Nalaikh mine. Based on the findings, the Korean and Mongolian governments are sponsoring core drilling and evaluating CBM or CMM projects. U.S. EPA also sponsored an August 2010 CMM technical workshop in Mongolia.

In Poland, U.S. EPA has awarded two grants; one completed at an abandoned mine in Zory to convert CMM to LNG, and another conducting ventilation air methane (VAM) testing at 10 mines. U.S. EPA awarded Poland another grant for a study that is just beginning.

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In Russia, U.S. EPA has been working with the International Energy Agency (IEA) on some CMM regulatory analysis and outreach. U.S. EPA recently completed a June 2011 *Best Practices* workshop with UNECE in Russia, as well.

In Ukraine, U.S. EPA has been supporting several projects. U.S. EPA held a successful CMM Investment Forum in Donetsk in May 2010, and plans to hold a September 2011 seminar focused on drainage, degasification, and air ventilation mitigation, in conjunction with the UNECE *Best Practices* workshop.

In addition, the U.S. has been working with countries just getting involved with GMI. U.S. EPA supported the UNECE *Best Practices* workshop in Kazakhstan in May 2011 and is looking to engage with them further. Colombia is becoming more involved with CMM. There were a number of accidents this past year in gassy mines in Colombia, so U.S. EPA presented at a CMM workshop in Colombia in February 2011 to resolve some safety issues. The U.S. may conduct a scoping mission sometime in 2011 to determine Colombia's needs for technical assistance and capacity building. U.S. EPA is presenting at the September 2011 World Mining Congress in Turkey and hopes to do more work in Turkey later this year. The U.S. has been engaging more with Vietnam and presented at the September 2010 Advanced Mining Congress in Vietnam. The U.S. may conduct a scoping mission to Vietnam later in 2011 to identify their needs for training and technical assistance.

- Mr. Huda noted that Indonesia was not included in the U.S.' presentation and asked how they can become involved. Dr. Somers invited Indonesia to submit a proposal through the annual grant solicitation process. In addition, they can continue attending GMI Coal Subcommittee meetings and the Third Expo next year to become more engaged. Dr. Franklin stated she was happy to see Indonesia at this meeting since they have not previously attended any Coal Subcommittee meetings. She added that once a country engages through the Subcommittee process, it is easier for the U.S. to understand the barriers and opportunities of the country in order to provide assistance.

UNECE Best Practices Update

Mr. Pilcher provided an update on the UNECE's Group of Expert's activities to disseminate the *Best Practices*. He noted that UNECE held workshops in China in October 2010 and Kazakhstan in May 2011 and is holding a third workshop in Ukraine in September 2011. Using questionnaires and direct meetings with mining companies and local mining institutes, the workshops are designed to further understand the mining situation in the country. After analyzing the information from the questionnaire and meetings, UNECE experts tried to address the issues identified. The workshop also tried to increase recovery and use of methane to improve safety. The workshops conducted so far have resulted in a high level of engagement. The challenge has been to reach a concrete approach to address the issues. Workshop results will be summarized at the annual Group of Experts meeting, which is scheduled for 11 October 2011, in conjunction with the GMI meeting in Krakow, Poland. The Group of Experts will meet for one day to discuss the workshops and the technical, economic, and social impacts of improving methane recovery and increased safety. The UNECE website will be updated to announce the October meeting agenda soon. Mr. Pilcher reminded the Subcommittee the Group of Experts is an open forum that welcomes the participation of all.

Planning the Technical Agenda for the October 2011 Meeting

Dr. Franklin announced the plan for the October 2011 meeting is to hold a full day of technical sessions. She indicated that she would like the Subcommittee to discuss which topics might be pertinent to the coal sector. She noted the group should be sure not to overlap with the UNECE agenda. She opened the floor for suggestions on topics or areas of interest for the technical sessions.

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- Doug Hollenbeck (Questor Technology) indicated that his company is focused on designing waste gas incineration systems for oil and gas, and they are trying to move into designing systems for other sectors. They developed a heat to power component with incineration. Instead of just burning the waste gas and converting it to CO₂, they are now trying to get a beneficial use out of it. The President of his company is a noted distinguished speaker and the technical sessions may be an opportunity for her to give a presentation on what Questor is doing and how it would apply to the coal sector.
- Dr. Somers noted there are several great coal mine projects in Poland, and she would like the agenda to include a visit to one or two of these interesting sites.
- Dr. Franklin expanded that idea to include coal production from surface mines in member countries as a potential technical session focus area.

The group discussed whether or not to put out a request for abstracts or just target speakers towards topics already identified. They decided it would be better to target presenters since there is only one day of technical sessions.

Dr. Franklin requested the Subcommittee send additional ideas for technical session topics to the AGS at asg@globalmethane.org by 22 July 2011. The Co-chairs, and anyone else interested in helping, will assimilate the ideas and submissions, identify speakers, and plan the technical session agenda. Mr. Karas offered to be part of a panel that would help with this effort. Dr. Franklin asked anyone interested in helping develop the agenda to also email the ASG by 22 July 2011. Dr. Franklin indicated the Co-chairs would coordinate communication among the group interested in helping plan the agenda to discuss the next steps.

Follow up from October 2010 Meeting in Beijing, China

Dr. Franklin noted that, at the October 2010 meeting in Beijing, the group discussed developing a technical paper to address flaring as a CMM end use. U.S. EPA is working to develop this paper, but it was not ready for distribution prior to this meeting. She noted a draft is almost ready for distribution, and, when it is, it will be sent out to the Subcommittee for comment. She requested comments be sent to the ASG, and the Subcommittee could discuss it further at the October 2011 Poland meeting.

In addition, Dr. Franklin noted U.S. EPA is still working to update the technology database that was initially prepared by Australia in 2005. They are proposing to expand it and make the format more dynamic. Dr. Somers noted they are reorganizing the database in light of new commercial developments and research and bench testing of new technologies. Once U.S. EPA has collected the new projects and case studies data, they will be sending the database out for review. Subcommittee members should review the database to make sure project information is up to date and that the database is a useful search tool for the latest technologies and vendors.

Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

After brief concluding remarks from Mr. Liu Wenge, Dr. Franklin noted she welcomed the participation of the new countries, Indonesia and Colombia, and she hoped to see them at future meetings. She encouraged those interested in planning the technical agenda for the October 2011 meeting to email the ASG (asg@globalmethane.org) by 22 July 2011, and she reminded the Subcommittee to send topic suggestions for the technical sessions by the same deadline. She noted presentations from this webinar would be posted online. She then adjourned the meeting, thanking everyone for attending and indicating she looked forward to seeing everyone in Krakow, Poland, on 12-14 October 2011.

Annex 1 –Coal Subcommittee Meeting Registrants



GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE COAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

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Annex 2 – Coal Subcommittee Meeting Agenda



GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE COAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING FINAL AGENDA

Held Via Webinar and Teleconference
20 June 2011, 07:00 Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

Welcome Addresses

- Co-Chair Pamela Franklin (USA), Acting Co-Chair B.N. Prasad (India), Acting Co-Chair Liu Wenge (China)
- Brief introduction of all meeting participants

Adoption of Agenda, *Subcommittee Chairs*

Update from the Administrative Support Group (ASG), *Monica Shimamura, ASG*

- New members and activities
- Action Plans
- The Third Expo
- The Fall 2011 meeting (combined, all sectors)

Updates from Partner Countries

Brief updates (5 minutes each) from Partner Country delegates regarding any activities in-country or in other Partner countries over the past eight months since the last Subcommittee meeting in Beijing China, and an overview of activities planned for the rest of 2011.

- *Australia*
- *China*
- *Colombia*
- *India*
- *Indonesia*
- *Mongolia*
- *United States*

Update on Disseminating the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) *Best Practices Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines*, *Ray Pilcher Chairman, UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane*

Planning Technical Agenda for October 2011 Meeting

The ASG proposed up to one full day of technical sessions to be held in conjunction with the Partnership-wide meeting to be held 12-14 October 2011 in Krakow, Poland. Potential general agenda ideas for the Coal sector include:

- VAM project updates globally

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- An update on Best Practices Guidelines for Methane Drainage from Coal Mines, including workshops and other activities of the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
- Project financing
- Other suggestions?

Follow-up from October 2010 Meeting in Beijing

- Draft position paper that addresses flaring as a CMM end use
- Draft update to the technology database

Adjourn