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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Third session

Geneva, 7-9 March 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 7 March 2007*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda.
2. Implementation of the UNECE Reform and matters arising from the sixty-first session of the Commission related to energy activities and from the fifteenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
3. Election of Officers.

* Delegates are requested to complete the attached registration form and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail (catherine.pierre@unece.org or clark.talkington@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge at least one hour prior to the beginning of the meeting. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone (internal extension 74140).

4. Review of the programme of work for 2006 and accomplishments of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.
5. Summary of the responses to the questionnaire delivered to the Ad Hoc Group of Experts in 2006.
6. Update on the status and activities of the Task Force on the Economic Benefits of Improving Mine Safety through the Extraction and Use of Coal Mine Methane.
7. Facilitating the identification and implementation of coal mine methane (CMM) projects through dialogue and technical cooperation including:
 - (a) Updates of CMM potential on a local, national, regional or international basis, and
 - (b) Presentations on technical, policy, or legal issues impacting project development.
8. Issues relating to financing of CMM projects:
 - (a) Project update on the UNECE extrabudgetary project, "Development of Coal Mine Methane Projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States" as summarized in the annual report for the project;
 - (b) Panel session to discuss the slow progress of CMM development; and
 - (c) Other project finance-related issues that may be raised by the secretariat before or during the meeting
9. Uniformity of terminology and technical standards.
10. Conferences, workshops and other events for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.
11. Activities of and cooperation with various intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations and other related bodies.
 - (a) Preparations for the sixth ministerial conference for the "Environment for Europe" process.
 - (b) Update of the Methane to Markets Partnership, activities of the Coal Mining Technical Subcommittee, and preparations for the M2M Expo in Beijing, China.
12. Programme of work for 2007 and provisional programme of work for 2008.
13. Other business.

14. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

Note: Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian will be provided during the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

1. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2007/1). The documents for the session will be posted on the UNECE website as soon as they become available at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/ie>.

Item 2: Implementation of the UNECE Reform and matters arising from the sixty-first session of the Commission related to energy activities (ECE/ENERGY/2006/1) and from the fifteenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/ENERGY/68)

2. The secretariat will provide an overview of recent activities within the work programme of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/ENERGY/68) following its fifteenth session in November 2006, the Work Plan on ECE Reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1) and decisions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-first session (21-23 February 2006), with particular emphasis on any decisions taken with regard to the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on CMM.
3. The secretariat will deliver a brief summary of the types of intergovernmental bodies that exist within the UN system, including Ad Hoc Groups of Experts and Working Parties. The overview should provide a better understanding of the UNECE's position within the UN organizational hierarchy and its relationships with other UN and international organizations. In addition, the presentation will describe more clearly how the work of this Group of Experts supports the objectives of the UNECE and the Division on Sustainable Energy.

Item 3: Election of Officers

4. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts should elect officers to the Bureau. This could include confirming/re-electing the members of the existing Bureau or electing new members. The existing Bureau was elected in December 2004, and has served two sessions.

Item 4: Review of the programme of work for 2006 and accomplishments of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

5. The second session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts adopted a programme of work for

2006 (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/2). The meeting will review the progress of the Group of Experts in carrying out its programme of work. The assessment will provide a benchmark to measure the effectiveness of the Group of Experts, allow it to take stock of its relative strengths and weaknesses, and establish a reference point for setting realistic objectives and deliverables for the programme of work in 2007.

Item 5: Summary of the responses to the questionnaire delivered to the Ad Hoc Group of Experts in 2006

6. The Bureau prepared and distributed a questionnaire for the members of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/3) during the first quarter of 2006. Responses were submitted up to the beginning of April 2006. The purpose of the questionnaire was two-fold: to establish a foundation for developing the programme of work for the Ad Hoc Group of Experts and to document different perspectives and priorities among the various stakeholder in the CMM industry within the Group of Experts and the CMM industry more generally. To date, there has never been a comprehensive survey of the CMM industry such as this and it is believed that the results of this survey could have far-reaching impacts on further development of CMM projects. The expectation of the Bureau is that responses will guide the work of the Group of Experts and will assist the Group in focusing on the most important issues the industry is facing. The secretariat and Chair have prepared a summary report (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2007/3) and will speak to the report and conclusions during the meeting. In addition, the secretariat and Chair have prepared two presentations, a short summary or a longer detailed summary, that are available on the UNECE website. The short summary presentation was sent to members of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts in September 2006. The presentations complement the report and provide additional detail on the responses.

Item 6: Update on the status and activities of the Task Force on the Economic Benefits of Improving Mine Safety through the Extraction and Use of Coal Mine Methane

7. Mine safety remains one of the principle issues of concern amongst the members of the Group of Experts. The meeting will discuss the activities of the Task Force including the case study template presented to the second session (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2007/4) and case studies prepared by the Russian Federation and the United States. The objectives will be:

- (a) To revisit the Task Force's programme of work agreed to at the first session in April 2005 (ENERGY/GE.4/2005/2) and to determine if the tasks and deliverables outlined in the programme of work remain valid and achievable;
- (b) To decide whether the Task Force should remain a distinct body reporting to the Ad Hoc Group of Experts with its own Terms of Reference or whether the work on mine safety can be carried out by an informal task force operating under the existing Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/2). The decision may be influenced by the discussions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its fifteenth annual session. If so, the meeting will receive a report from the secretariat on any

decisions of the Committee that may impact this decision; and

- (c) To establish a clear roadmap for the future efforts of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts in the area of mine safety.

Item 7: Facilitating the identification and implementation of coal mine methane (CMM) projects through dialogue and technical cooperation

8. Cooperation and collaboration are required at all levels in order to facilitate development and financing of CMM projects. Presentations on specific technologies and country-specific updates at previous sessions have been successful in encouraging further dialogue on project investment, strategic alliances, and other cooperative partnerships. Continuing this tradition, delegates will have the opportunity to provide:

- (a) Brief updates on local, national, regional or international activities; and
- (b) Briefings on important technical, policy, or legal issues impacting CMM project development.

9. Delegates are encouraged to contact the secretariat in advance of the meeting if they wish to make a presentation. Presentations will be limited to a maximum of ten to twenty minutes depending on the number of requests received, and should be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, a paper, or some other documentation in at least one of the three official UNECE languages: English, French or Russian. Requests will be considered as received and with the aim of striking an appropriate balance. Although every effort will be made to accommodate all requests, the number of speaking slots may be limited.

Item 8: Issues relating to financing of CMM projects

10. Item 8 will consist of three parts:

- (a) Project report: The secretariat and consulting team will deliver a report on the activities and progress of the extrabudgetary project “Development of Coal Mine Methane Projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States” including plans to complete the project in 2007. The original project document (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2004/2) is available on the ECE website.
- (b) Panel discussion: A recent World Bank study reports that “CMM was cited by many interviewees as an attractive asset class, yet that interest is not borne out by market data which shows this asset class down to 1% market volumes in 2006 from 8% in 2005.”¹

¹ World Bank and the International Emissions Trading Association, State and Trends of the Carbon Markets 2006 (Update: January 1 – September 30, 2006), Washington, DC, USA, October 2006, p. 12

Slow movement on CMM could jeopardize project development resulting in fewer projects. A panel session will consider whether the problem is real or imagined, and, if a real concern, identify the underlying problems and possible solutions. The panel will consist of stakeholders from the various sectors of the industry including coal companies, the financial community, project developers, and government representatives and the session will be designed to stimulate an active dialogue with all participants.

- (c) Other project finance-related issues that may be raised before or during the meeting.

Item 9: Uniformity of terminology and technical standards

11. The meeting will continue the discussion on uniformity of terminology for methane from coal seams and technical standards for CMM.

Item 10: Conferences, workshops and other events for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

12. The meeting will receive reports from events held during 2006 including the workshop in Kemerovo, Russian Federation in June 2006 hosted by the Kemerovo Regional Administration and UNDP, *Coal mine Methane: Recovery, Utilization, Investment Opportunities*, and the workshop in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation organized and hosted by VNIMI, *Workshop on Geomechanical and Geodynamic Aspects of High-Efficiency Extraction of Coalmine and Coalbed Methane*. The Group of Experts will also discuss the status of planned events for 2007 and 2008, and participants are encouraged to provide notice of other events. Organizations wishing to receive the endorsement and/or cooperation of the UNECE and the Ad Hoc Group of Experts for a workshop, conference or other event should be prepared to deliver a short presentation providing sufficient detail for a decision including the location, dates, venue, purpose, and sponsorship of the event.

Item 11: Activities of and cooperation with various intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations and other related bodies

13. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will be briefed on the activities of common interest of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and related bodies. The meeting will hear from two such bodies noted below, but encourages other organizations to draw attention to issues that may have an impact on the development and commercialization of CMM projects in the UNECE region that are not covered on this agenda. Additionally, these organizations are invited to present their views and proposals with regard to future activities and areas of cooperation.

- (a) The “Environment for Europe” process is a partnership of the member States within the UNECE region, organizations of the United Nations system represented in the region, other intergovernmental organizations, regional environment centres, non-governmental organizations and other major groups (see: <http://www.unece.org/env/efe/welcome.html>). The process began in the early 1990s and is continuing with the planned sixth ministerial

conference to be held in Belgrade, Serbia from 10-12 October 2007. The Working Group of Senior Officials "Environment for Europe" has requested a background paper on coal mine methane (ECE/CEP/AC.11/2006/9). The secretariat is preparing a paper outlining the objectives and activities of the Group of Experts, and will discuss preparations with the Group of Experts. At the ministerial level, the "Environment for Europe" process presents an excellent opportunity for the Group to highlight the CMM recovery and use and the work of the Group of Experts.

- (b) The Methane to Markets (M2M) Partnership is an international partnership of 18 countries committed to reductions of methane emissions from a range of sources including coal mines. The objectives and work of the Partnership are closely aligned with the goals of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and seven countries in the M2M Partnership are UNECE member countries. The UNECE is a Partnership Project Network member and as such has committed to lead efforts to develop uniform terminology to promote coal mine methane development. The Coal Technical Subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts will deliver an update on the Partnership's activities, including the substance of and decisions from subcommittee meetings held in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States in May 2006 and Brisbane, Australia in October 2006. In addition, the Subcommittee will discuss preparations for the M2M Expo to be held in Beijing, China in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Item 12: Programme of work for 2007 and provisional programme of work for 2008

14. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will be given an opportunity to discuss and review the programme of work for 2007 and provisional programme of work for 2008, and propose specific activities to be carried out during this period.

Item 13: Other business

15. At the time the provisional agenda was prepared, there were no issues to be raised under this item.

Item 14: Adoption of the report of the meeting

16. A report on the session will be prepared by the secretariat after the meeting, sent to the Bureau for approval and then circulated to member countries. In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission, the report of the session will be short and focussed and address the key conclusions and recommendations.

ANNEX I

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Third session, 7-9 March 2007

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE²

7 March 2006

08:00 – 10:00	Registration to receive credentials at the Pregny Gate, 14 Avenue de la Paix ³
10:00 – 13:00	Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
15:00 – 18:00	Items 6 and 7

8 March 2006

10:00 – 13:00	Item 7 (cont.) and 8
15:00 – 16:30	Items 9 10, 11(a) and 12
16:30 – 18:00	Item 11(b)

9 March 2006

10:00 – 13:00	Item 11(b) (cont.)
15:00 – 17:30	Item 11(b) (cont.)
17:30 – 18:00	Items 12 (cont), 13 and 14
18:00	Third Session adjourns

² Schedule subject to change; detailed timetable will be posted on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/ie/se/coal/cmm.html> prior to the meeting

³ Registration is open every working day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The telephone numbers for Security at Pregny Gate are +41 (0) 22 917 50 02 / + 41 (0) 22 917 50 42 / + 41 (0) 917 12 40

ANNEX II

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane Third session, 7-9 March 2007

REGISTRATION FORM

In view of the enhanced security arrangements for access to the Palais des Nations, delegations are asked to inform the secretariat (UNECE Sustainable Energy Division) of their exact composition. Access to the Palais des Nations will be granted only to those in possession of an identity card issued by the Safety and Security Section, Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Building (a map is attached). In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone (internal extension 74140 / 75721).

Each delegate attending the session is therefore urged, if possible, to register at least two weeks before the session commences.

To gain initial entry to the Palais, delegates should bring their passport and their registration form to confirm identity. A note will be sent to all registrants in the weeks prior the meeting and will include a detailed time schedule, the location within the Palais where the meeting will be held and other logistical information.

Delegates should complete the attached registration form and return it by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or e-mail (clark.talkington@unece.org or catherine.pierre@unece.org) to:

Mr. Clark Talkington
Secretary, Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
Sustainable Energy Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Tel: +41 22 917 2671 / 917 4140
Fax: +41 22 917 0038
clark.talkington@unece.org or catherine.pierre@unece.org



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA *Please Print*

Conference Registration Form

Date

Please fax this completed form to the Host Secretariat and **BRING THIS ORIGINAL** with you to Geneva.
An additional form is required for spouses.

Title of the Conference

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, 3rd Session, 7-9 March 2007

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organisation or Agency

Participant

Family Name

First Name

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms.

Date Of Birth

 / /

(DD/MM/YYYY)

Participation Category

Head of Delegation

Observer Organisation

Participation

Delegation Member

NGO (ECOSOC Accred.)

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ANNEX III

MAP OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

