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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Fourth session
Geneva, 16-17 October 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 16 October 2008*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and any matters for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (<http://www.unece.org/ie/>), and transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, if possible at least two weeks prior to the session – namely, by **1 October 2008** – either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail (catherine.pierre@unece.org). Delegates are advised to present themselves at least one hour prior to the start of the meeting 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 (see the map on the Energy Division's website), for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (internal extension 74140 or 75721).

3. Election of Officers
4. Opening remarks from the Chair
5. Review of the programme of work for 2007/2008
6. Activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts with respect to mine safety
7. Status of coal mine methane and carbon markets
8. Development and deployment of ventilation air methane
9. Activities of and cooperation with various intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations and other related bodies.
10. Recommendation to the Committee on Sustainable Energy on the mandate of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane
11. Programme of work for 2009
12. Other business
13. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

1. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The documents for the session will be published in English, French and Russian and will be posted as soon as they become available to the Official Document System of the United Nations website at: <http://documents.un.org/> and the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division website at: <http://www.unece.org/ie/se/cmm.html>. A detailed time schedule for the session will be posted to the UNECE Sustainable Energy Division website and sent to registrants prior to the meeting.

Item 2: Activities and priorities of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and any matters for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts

2. The secretariat will provide an overview of recent activities within the programme of work of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/ENERGY/76) following its sixteenth session in November 2007, with particular emphasis on any decisions taken with regard to the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

Item 3: Election of Officers

3. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts will elect a new bureau to serve beginning in 2009. Members of the existing Bureau may be re-elected.

Item 4: Opening remarks from the Chair

4. The Chair will deliver opening remarks to the meeting.

Item 5: Review of the programme of work for 2007/2008

5. The meeting will review progress on the action items in the programme of work set forth in the report of the third session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2007/2).

Item 6: Activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts with respect to mine safety

6. The meeting will receive an update on each of the activities listed below and will discuss whether to continue and build on the work completed to date:

- (a) Review of outdated, ineffective or counterproductive mine safety laws, policies, or standards;
- (b) Cooperation with the insurance industry on methane-related mine safety issues; and
- (c) Development of a best practice guidance for effective coal mine methane (CMM) drainage and utilization.

Item 7: Status of coal mine methane and carbon markets

7. The meeting will receive reports on the current status of market development for CMM projects around the world. In addition, the meeting will also discuss the status of carbon and financial markets as these directly impact the viability of CMM projects.

Item 8: Development and deployment of ventilation air methane

8. Ventilation air methane (VAM) is the methane released through mine ventilation shafts at very low concentrations, generally less than one per cent methane, and it accounts for the largest source of CMM emissions worldwide. The very low concentrations have presented a major technological hurdle to wide-scale VAM use for many years. Now, however, a commercial project in Australia, test-scale demonstration projects in Australia, China, and United States, and the announcement of a planned commercial project in the United States are generating great interest in VAM. The meeting will therefore consider VAM use including presentations from VAM equipment suppliers. This will be followed by a discussion to hear the views of various CMM industry stakeholders on VAM potential.

Item 9: Activities of and cooperation with various intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations and other related bodies

9. The meeting will receive an update from the Methane to Markets Partnership.

10. The secretariat welcomes requests from governmental, intergovernmental, international, and non-governmental organizations to provide brief updates on their activities during the fourth session. Private sector participants may also submit such requests. Requests will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. The Chair and the secretariat will consider the requests in the light of the mission of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts, objectives of the fourth session, relevance to the programme of work for the Ad Hoc Group of Experts, and available time during the session.

Item 10: Recommendation to the Committee on Sustainable Energy on the mandate of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

11. In accordance with the UNECE reform adopted by member States in December 2005, the duration for an Ad Hoc Group of Experts is a maximum of two years. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane currently has a mandate to the end of 2008 approved by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at its fifteenth session (ECE/ENERGY/68, para. 35(f)).

12. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts must prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Committee on Sustainable Energy to continue its programme of work after December 2008. Options include:

(a) A new one-year mandate to the end of 2009 to complete activities already planned for 2009;

(b) A new two-year mandate to the end of 2010;

(c) Cessation of activities after 31 December 2008; or

(d) Inclusion of the work of this Group of Experts within another body, most likely the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels.

Item 11: Programme of work for 2009

13. If the decision is made to extend the mandate of the the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane or to continue the programme of work in another body, the meeting will discuss and review the planned programme of work for 2009 proposing specific activities to be carried out during this period.

Item 12: Other business

14. The fifth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal MineMethane is tentatively scheduled for 14-15 October 2009 in Geneva.

15. The meeting may discuss any other pertinent issues that arise before or during the session, and that fall within the scope of the Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (ENERGY/GE.4/2006/2, Annex). To the extent possible, delegates are encouraged to notify the secretariat and Chair in advance if they wish to raise any issues under this agenda item.

Item 13: Adoption of the report of the meeting

III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

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

16 October 2008

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Registration at the Pregny Gate, 14 Avenue de la Paix*
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Items 1-7
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Items 7(cont) and 8

17 October 2008

10 a.m. – 1 p.m	Items 9 - 13
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* Registration is open every working day at the Pregny Gate from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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
