



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Task Force on the Economic Benefits of Improving
Mine Safety through Extraction and Use of Coal Mine Methane
Second session, 30 January 2006

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 30 January 2006, starting at 10 a.m. *

This session will be held during the same week as the following energy-related meetings:

- (a) Second session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane will be held on 31 January - 1 February 2006 (provisional agenda ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/1)
- (b) Eighth session of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development will be held on 2-3 February 2006 (provisional agenda ECE/ENERGY/GE.1/2006/1)

* Delegates are requested to complete the attached registration form also available from the Internet web site of the UNECE IREED Division (<http://www.unece.org/ie>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail: (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 Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone (internal extension 74140).

1. Adoption of the Agenda (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/5).
2. Adoption of the final Terms of Reference (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/5).
3. Status of the programme of work discussed at the first session of the Task Force including development of the template for the case studies on mine degasification (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/7).
4. Facilitating global cooperation to improve mine safety through cooperative efforts with other national, intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies.
5. Development of the future programme of work for 2006 including completion of example case studies for the United States (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/8) and the Russian Federation (ENERGY/GE.4/2006/9).
6. Any other business.
7. Adoption of the report of the meeting (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/6).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Item 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 on the UNECE web site as soon as they become available at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/ie/se/coal/cmm.html>.

Item 2

At the first session of the Task Force, the members drafted Terms of Reference (TOR) for discussion and consideration. The meeting agreed upon the importance of the Task Force having a brief TOR that would provide a general guide for steering its work and activities. The final TOR is presented in Annex I for adoption by the Task Force.

Item 3

The members determined that two very important activities for the Task Force are the preparation and distribution of case studies on methane degasification programmes and development of a set of guidelines to increase both safety and productivity at mine sites. To initiate these efforts, the Task Force will discuss the draft template distributed among the members for development of their case studies. Geologic conditions, mining practices, and market conditions vary by country, region, basin, and even by mine. Technologies that have worked in some instances have failed in others. To create a truly valuable resource, the case studies will examine both successful and unsuccessful degasification programmes in a range of settings in different countries. Identifying and discussing the reasons for success or failure will provide users with a better foundation to adapt and apply certain technologies or applications to their unique circumstances.

Item 4

The work of the Task Force complements the work of other national, international, and non-governmental organizations addressing mine safety and methane capture/use such as the International Labour Organization and the Methane to Markets Partnership. The Task Force will consider opportunities to collaborate with the other organizations and initiatives to further the overarching goal of improving mine safety.

Item 5

The Task Force will be given an opportunity to discuss and review the programme of work for 2006 and propose specific activities to be carried out during this period.

Item 6

Any additional issues that arise between the time of preparation of the provisional agenda and the holding of the meeting will be considered under this item.

Item 7

A report on the session will be prepared by the secretariat after the meeting, sent to the Bureau for approval and then circulated to members (ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2006/6). In accordance with the recommendations of the Commission, the report of the session will be short and focused and address the key conclusions and recommendations.

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

ANNEX I

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COAL MINE METHANE

TASK FORCE ON THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF IMPROVING MINE SAFETY THROUGH EXTRACTION AND USE OF COAL MINE METHANE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Task Force on the Economic Benefits of Improving Mine Safety through Extraction and Use of Coal Mine Methane was launched in April 2005 to specifically support the activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane in the area of improving mine safety through extraction and use of coal mine methane. The Task Force, which will comprise experts from the technical, business and regulatory communities, will report on its activities to the annual sessions of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane.

The Task Force will seek to:

- (i) establish a clear linkage between the economic benefits and the mining of gassy coal seams based on the safe drainage and use of the gas, and to facilitate this through the establishment of a dedicated membership from the technical, business and regulatory communities;
- (ii) develop a number of focused case studies that will then serve to provide the basis for the elaboration of a set of UN Guidelines on “Avoidance and Minimizing Impact of Mine Explosions and Other Impacts of Mine Gas”; and
- (iii) cooperate and work with the governments of target countries and the global mining industry in developing the economic justifications for implementing incentives to increase the extraction and use of coal mine methane.

ANNEX II

AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON COAL MINE METHANE

**TASK FORCE ON THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF IMPROVING MINE SAFETY
THROUGH EXTRACTION AND USE OF COAL MINE METHANE**

Second session, 30 January 2006, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Opening on 30 January at 10 a.m.

REGISTRATION FORM

Each delegate attending the session is kindly requested to fill out the attached Conference Registration Form and return it by fax (+41 22 917 0038) or by e-mail at least two weeks, if possible, before the session commences, to:

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IREED Division
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1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 2671 and 917 4140
Telefax: +41 22 917 0038
E-mail: clark.talkington@unece.org
Website: <http://www.unece.org/ie>



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Title of the Conference

UNECE TASK FORCE ON MINE SAFETY, 2nd Session, 30 January 2006

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organization or Agency, Company

Participant: Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐

Family Name

First Name

Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year)

Head of Delegation ☐Observer Organization ☐

Participation

Delegation Member ☐NGO (ECOSOC accredited.) ☐

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