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COALBED METHANE EXTRA

A publication of the Coalbed Methane Outreach Program (CMOP)

www.epa.gov/coalbed

NMA Provides Insight on Coal Mining Industry Activities and Concerns

The National Mining Association (NMA) is a national trade organization that represents the interests of the mining industry before Congress, the Administration, federal agencies, the judiciary, and the media. It was formed as the result of a 1995 merger of the National Coal Association and the American Mining Congress, two groups with a long history of representing the various segments of the mining industry. NMA members account for 80% to 85% of domestic coal production and include most of the largest coal producing companies in the United States. The Coalbed Methane Outreach Program (CMOP) conducts outreach to NMA's stakeholders and constituents and was pleased to have the opportunity to meet recently with Constance Holmes, NMA's Senior Economist and Director of International Policy in Washington D.C., to learn about the organization and its perspective on coal mine safety, climate change mitigation, and the 2005 Energy Policy Act.

Coal Mine Safety

The NMA works to address a number of the coal mining community's key concerns, including recruiting skilled mining employees, enhancing safety, acquiring water and land permits, and accessing coal mine property on federal lands. In fact, "the greatest concern for underground coal mines in the United States is safety" Mrs. Holmes said. She acknowledged that many factors contribute to mine safety, including methane. To recognize the achievement of outstanding safety records, the NMA and the Mining Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) annually distribute Sentinels of Safety Awards, the oldest established

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Methane to Markets Update

Government officials and private sector representatives from 17 countries committed to accelerated action to recover and use methane as a clean energy source at the second annual Methane to Markets Partnership meeting, which concluded November 4, 2005, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"We're making substantial progress in developing the programs and technologies necessary to promote energy security and reduce global methane emissions," EPA Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation Bill Wehrum said. "The international collaboration and action we've seen this week lays the groundwork for additional success."

With the addition of Ecuador to the Partnership at the meeting, the 17 Partner countries now represent more than 60 percent of global methane emissions. The Partnership is committed to advancing cost-effective, near-term methane recovery and use as a source of clean energy. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, 23 times as effective as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere.

By 2015 the Methane to Markets Partnership has the potential to deliver annual reductions in methane emissions of up to 50 million metric tons of carbon equivalent or recovery of 500 billion cubic feet of natural gas. If these projections are achieved, they could stabilize or reduce global atmospheric concentrations of methane. This would be equivalent to cutting the greenhouse gas emissions of 33 million cars, planting 55 million acres of trees, or eliminat-

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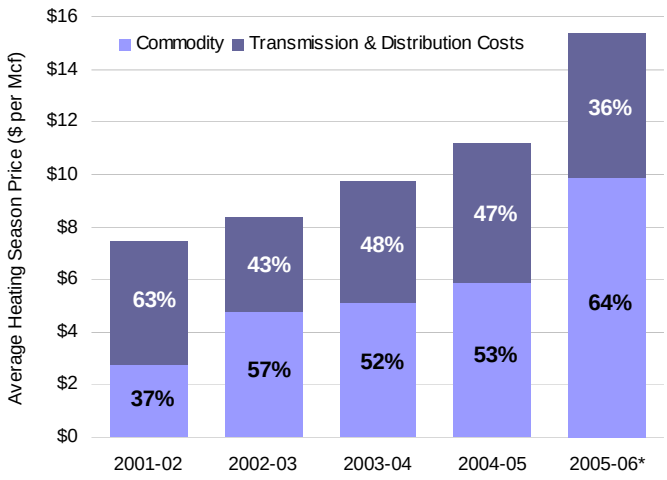
The Domestic Natural Gas Industry This Heating Season

Natural gas prices have been rising as demand has accelerated faster than supplies have come on line. Hurricanes Rita and Katrina worsened the situation by knocking out production in the Gulf of Mexico, some of which remains out of service. In addition, demand for natural gas is highest during the winter because it is the dominant fuel for home heating. As a result of tight supplies and heavy demand natural gas prices for this heating season are projected to remain high. According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), residential natural gas prices are expected to average $12.77 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf) for all of 2005 (19 percent higher than 2004), with an increase of roughly 14 percent anticipated in 2006. On average, households using natural gas are expected to spend about $281 (38 percent) more for fuel this winter than last winter. Figure 1 shows natural gas prices paid by residential consumers during the past four heating seasons compared to EIA's projections for 2005-06 ($15.36 per Mcf). Note that the main driver behind the high price is the increase in the cost of the gas itself.

The Gulf of Mexico is the backbone of the U.S. energy industry, accounting for about a quarter of both domestic oil and natural gas production as well as nearly half of the nation's refining capacity. The landfall of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on August 29 and September 24, respectively, wreaked havoc on the Gulf's oil and gas infrastructure. As of December 12, the U.S. Minerals Management Service still listed 126 offshore production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico as evacuated. Nearly 30 percent of daily oil production from the gulf (441,394 barrels per day) is still shut in, as is 23 percent (2.3 billion cubic feet per day) of natural gas production. Cumulative production lost from federal leases in the Gulf since August 26 now totals 101.7 million barrels of crude and 526 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas. In addition, a number of processing plants in Louisiana and Texas, with capacities equal to or greater than 100 million cubic feet (MMcf) per day, are out of service. Together these plants have a capacity of 5.25 Bcf per day, and they had a total pre-hurricane flow volume of 3.26 Bcf per day. A number of the inactive plants are expected to be operational within the next 4 weeks.

Natural gas can be liquefied and transported around the world on tanker ships, but there is not enough excess supply to make up for lost Gulf production via imports. Much of the lost crude production following the Hurricanes was replaced by oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and International Energy Agency stocks; however, no such global reserves of natural gas exist. Considering that warmer-than-usual summer weather already made for unusually tight market conditions, the fact that the market is entering the high-demand season only exacerbates the supply/demand imbalance.

Figure 1. Breakdown of Natural Gas Price Paid by Residential Consumers During the Heating Season



Source: Energy Information Administration (EIA), Natural Gas Monthly (November 2005)
EIA, Residential Naturla Gas Prices: What Consumers Should Know (November 2005)
*EIA, Short Term Energy Outlook (December 2005)

EIA and most experts expect that supplies of natural gas will be sufficient to satisfy all residential needs this coming winter. As of December 2, however, working gas storage decreased to 3,166 Bcf from 3,225 Bcf the previous week (implied net withdrawal of 59 Bcf). Storage levels are 6.9 percent above the 5-year average, but the relatively low injections during most of the summer continue to raise some concerns about storage availability in the coming heating season. Furthermore, the tight market has shown to be especially sensitive to significant weather events, leading to price volatility. For example, on December 8 and 13, ahead of snow storms that blanketed much of the Midwest and the Northeast corridor of the U.S., natural gas for January delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange set all-time highs rising above $15 per Mcf twice in one week, double the price from a year ago. Since then prices have retreated below $15 per Mcf. Whether or not the recent prices are a result of specula-

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Focus

Project Development in Developing Countries

USDA Awards Grant for CBM/CMM Project in Ukraine

Earlier this year, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) awarded a $585,570 grant to the Donetsk Regional Administration for a feasibility study on a proposed Coal Mine Methane/Coal Bed Methane (CMM/CBM) project in the Donbass Region of Ukraine. The U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, John Herbst, and the Governor of Donetsk, Vadym Chuprun, signed the grant agreement on behalf of the United States and Ukrainian Governments, respectively.

The USTDA-funded study will examine the possibility of commercial development of CMM/CBM in Donbass to increase the domestic supply of natural gas, as well as increase the safety and environmental quality of the mines in the region. The analysis will focus on developing the best technical and economic approach for degassing Donetsk regional coalmines; evaluating the technical and economic merits of producing CMM; assessing the most likely markets and infrastructure required to utilize CMM and CBM; and developing a financing strategy, taking into account the potential for carbon credit sales. In addition, the contractor will evaluate the environmental benefits of methane capture and carbon dioxide sequestration with a focus on the regulatory requirements necessary to implement a project of this type. Advanced Resources International, Inc. (ARI), of Arlington, Virginia, will conduct the study.

New World Bank Carbon Finance Strategy Increases Opportunities For Developing Countries

Earlier this month, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors endorsed a Carbon Finance Strategy that will give an edge to developing countries to participate in the growing carbon market, and will oversee the creation of an Umbrella Carbon Facility that will permit the purchase of carbon emission reductions on a larger scale.

Under flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol, industrialized countries with greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction obligations can purchase some of those reductions in developing countries or in countries with economies in transition in exchange for clean technology and additional financing.

"The new Strategy is timely because it increases the Bank's ability to support poorer communities with carbon finance through existing funds, and will make it possible to facilitate emission reductions transactions in much larger volumes with greater participation by the private sector," says Warren Evans, Director Environment Department, World Bank.

The Bank already administers eight carbon funds, including the Community Development Carbon Fund and the BioCarbon Fund, which assist poor countries and communities to benefit from carbon trade. The new Umbrella Carbon Facility will pull together multiple sources of funding, including from the Bank's existing carbon funds, to purchase very large volumes of carbon emissions from pre-identified projects on behalf of governments and private firms. Under current pricing scenarios, some of these purchases could reach $200 to $600 million, particularly in East Asia, South Asia, and Latin America.

The kinds of projects that could benefit from the Umbrella Carbon Facility include capping of industrial gases like HFC-23, coal mine methane recovery and use, coal-fired power and hydropower facility rehabilitation, programs for landfill gas capture and use from existing landfill sites, and nitrous oxide capture from nitric acid production.

For more information on the World Bank's carbon finance and climate change activities, please go to: **www.carbonfinance.org**

Consolidated Baseline Methodology Approved for CMM Projects

On November 28, 2005, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board approved a consolidated baseline methodology for certain types of coal mine methane (CMM) recovery and utilization projects. This step may make it easier for CMM projects in developing countries to acquire financing and may open up the sector to more project activity.

The CDM is a flexible mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol that allows Annex I countries to offset their national reduction targets by acquiring Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) from projects in non-Annex I countries like China, Argentina, and India. Before a CDM project can be approved and ultimately verified by the Executive Board, its plans and projections must be applied to a baseline methodology. With the approval of a "fast track" consolidated baseline methodology, an individual CMM project no longer has to develop and submit its own version, the approval of which can take 9 to 10 months.

Methodology number ACM0008, the first to be approved for CMM projects, applies only to projects that produce electricity, motivate power and/

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ing emissions from fifty (50) 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants; or providing enough energy to heat approximately 7.2 million households for one year.

Key outcomes of the second annual Methane to Markets Partnership meeting include:

- Announcement of a Methane to Markets Project & Technology Expo, highlighting project opportunities, successes, and methane recovery and use technologies, to be held in 2007. A task force has been selected that will begin the planning process;
- Addition of a new Agriculture Subcommittee to address methane emissions, particularly through manure-management practices;
- Commitment by all participants to substantial expansion of the Project Network, with a focus on enrollment of more private companies, development banks, and others; and
- Agreement to begin identifying funding sources for a range of methane recovery projects across the globe.

Coal Subcommittee Meeting

In its meeting, the Coal Subcommittee discussed options and opportunities for a Project Expo, which the group agreed was an important goal. A key theme of the meeting was how to direct activities towards viable, concrete project opportunities. The Coal Subcommittee's action plan for years 2 to 5 of the Partnership focuses on preparing a roadmap to the Project Expo, which is planned for 2007.

The key elements of the Coal Subcommittee's action plan are as follows:

- *Completing an overview of methane recovery and use opportunities*. The Subcommittee is developing a global overview and database of CMM activities, which will be supplemented with a database of technologies and technical providers.
- *Identifying and addressing key barriers to project development*. The Subcommittee identified four key barriers and ways to address them:
  - There is a lack of clarity about legal and regulatory issues, especially regarding gas ownership. The Subcommittee will address this issue by developing a white paper on regulatory issues and drafting recommendations for adopting uniform technical standards.
  - There is a strong need for technical information, including resource modeling, techniques for technology assessment and selection, and formulation of feasibility studies. The Subcommittee will engage in technology transfer activities, such as workshops, study tours, sponsored travel, and support for feasibility studies.
  - There is a widespread need for more pilot projects to demonstrate viable recovery and utilization scenarios. The Subcommittee will provide support for demonstration projects.
  - CMM projects suffer from a lack of financing and the capacity to obtain financing. The Subcommittee will address these issues by conducting regional project finance workshops and sponsoring discussions at the planned Project Expo.
- *Identifying and addressing country-specific needs, opportunities, and priorities*. The Subcommittee will focus on country-specific needs through the following:
  - Expanding the database of CMM activities in each country
  - Reporting on the country-specific regulatory regime for CMM project development
  - Identifying infrastructure needs for market access
  - Identifying specific project opportunities within each country.

The Subcommittee recognized that all of these activities will involve cooperative activities and increased outreach to and engagement with the Project Network.

Spring Coal Subcommittee Meeting

The date has been set for the next Methane to Markets Coal Technical Subcommittee meeting. The meeting will be held at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA, on May 23, 2006, in conjunction with the 2006 International Coalbed Methane Symposium (May 22 – 26, 2006). Project Network members from all related enterprises – including coal mining, project development, technology, multilateral / financing, and consulting – are strongly encouraged to attend to contribute their important perspectives and ideas about facilitating project develop-

ment opportunities through this international Partnership. Registration information will be available soon at the official Methane to Markets website, **www.methanetomarkets.org**. Registration for the Symposium should be completed separately at **http://bama.ua.edu/~coalbed**.

Methane to Markets Regional Workshop in China

On December 2, 2005, a Regional Workshop on CMM opportunities in China was held in Beijing, sponsored by U.S. EPA, Australia Greenhouse Office, Japan's New Energy & Industrial Development Organization (NEDO), and the State Administration of Coal Mine Safety, PRC. This collaborative event attracted over 80 participants representing 10 Methane to Markets Partner countries and many members of the Project Network. The workshop focused on a series of technical case studies applying US and Australian technologies to Chinese mines; addressing regulatory and financial issues associated with developing projects in China; a panel discussion addressing international coal companies' experiences working in China; and a panel discussion of representatives from Argentina, India, Nigeria, Russia, and Ukraine, addressing their country-specific barriers and how those are similar to or different from the needs and opportunities in China. Workshop participants recommended holding more such interactive events that allow for the candid exchange of ideas and experiences related to CMM project development.

The workshop was held immediately following the two-day event, the 5th International Symposium on CBM/CMM in China, which included a Sino-Japanese workshop on coal technology. The symposium featured a number of presentations that focused on technologies to utilize or mitigate CMM; resource, economic, and risk assessment strategies; and experiences at specific Chinese mines. Both the Methane to Markets Workshop and the Symposium were organized and hosted by the China Coal Information Institute.

Pictures from the second annual Methane to Markets Partnership meeting, which concluded November 4, 2005, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

www.epa.gov/coalbed
www.methanetomarkets.org

CBM/CMM News

Two new mine CMM Projects completed in the UK

Alkane Energy, the international renewable energy company that designs, builds, operates and services methane treatment and generation plants, announced recently that it has completed two new electricity generation plants in the United Kingdom that operate on coal mine methane (CMM).

The two new plants, at Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire and Whitwell, Derbyshire, have a combined generating capacity of 2.7 MW. Added to the 5.4 MW output from existing plants at Markham and Bevercotes, this takes Alkane's generating capacity in the UK to 8.1 MW. Alkane's CMM plants in the UK are expected to capture approximately 20,000 tonnes of methane in 2005, equal to carbon dioxide savings of around 460,000 tonnes. This is equivalent to the carbon dioxide that would be saved by operating around 300 one megawatt wind turbines.

The UK is a member of the Methane to Market Partnership and is home to more than twenty operating or planned coal mine methane utilization projects. The majority of such projects, found at both active and abandoned mines, use drained gas to generate electricity. For more details on Alkane projects, check their website **www.alkane.co.uk**. To view the country profile submitted by the UK to Methane to Markets Partnership, see **http://www.methanetomarkets.org/resources/coalmines/docs/uk_profile.pdf**.

United States participates in COP Meetings in Montreal

The eleventh Conference of Parties (COP 11) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the first Meeting of the Parties to its Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 1) were held together in Montreal, Canada, from November 28 to December 10. Though the U.S. is not a Party to the Protocol, it actively engages in the ongoing negotiations under the UNFCCC. At COP 11, Parties to the UNFCCC agreed to open and non-binding talks on long-term cooperative action to address climate change without prejudice to any future negotiations or formal commitments. This dialogue would take place at up to four workshops over the coming two years. Other topics addressed include technology development and transfer, adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change by developing and least developed countries, and several financial and budget-related issues, including guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which serves as the Convention's financial mechanism. Kyoto Parties agreed to establish a process through which Annex B countries—industrialized countries with emissions targets under the Protocol—would consider further commitments that would take effect after the first phase ends in 2012.

Throughout the conference the U.S. delegation voiced its support of voluntary efforts and multilateral and bilateral partnerships to tackle climate change. The U.S. has established voluntary, market-based climate relationships with nations representing 80 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Included in these is the Methane to Markets Partnership to recover and use methane, which makes up 16 percent of global GHG emissions.

Australian Companies Investing in CBM Projects

As reported by Reuters this fall, a spate of new coal-seam gas (also known as coalbed methane or CBM) projects was recently announced in Australia. With a total investment of over A$150 million (US$115 million), three Australian companies are seeking to tap government incentives that promote cleaner fuels while also developing alternatives to maturing, traditional gas sources.

The Australian Gas Light Co., the country's biggest power retailer, entered a A$93 million joint venture arrangement with Sydney Gas Ltd. to accelerate development of the latter's coal-seam gas assets. In addition, coal-seam gas producer Arrow Energy NL and energy infrastructure company Alinta Limited signed a A$27 million deal to build a 27.4 megawatt gas-fired power station in Queensland. Furthermore, Beach Petroleum Ltd. said it would spend A$35 million for Arrow's ongoing gas exploration efforts in coal seams in Queensland's Surat Basin.

In a boost to the industry, the Queensland government has required that by January 2006, 13 percent of electricity be generated by gas, of which around 25 percent is sourced from coal seams. New South Wales still has no specific targets, but since 2003 it has had a greenhouse gas reduction scheme under which coal-seam methane electricity generators are among those who receive abatement certificates that can be sold to dirtier generators.

Australia, a Methane to Markets partner country, has large coal deposits along the length of its eastern seaboard, with current government projections suggesting the resource can sustain production for the next 200 years. It is home to several coal mine methane recovery and utiliza-

tion projects including the first project in the world to oxidize ventilation air methane (VAM).

North American Coalbed Methane Fall Forum held in September

The North American Coalbed Methane Forum (NACMF) celebrated its 20th anniversary at its fall meeting, held October 18-19, 2005 at Lakeview Resort in Morgantown, West Virginia. The Forum, the only coalbed methane forum to have met on a regular, biannual basis over the past two decades, was created to "advance the conservation, development, and production of coalbed methane as a worldwide energy resource".

A variety of topics were featured in the Fall 2005 session including technical issues, such as advancements in Enhanced Coalbed Methane (ECBM) recovery and CDX Gas operations in Northern Appalachia, and policy issues, such as the effects of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 on CBM and CMM production and an update on CBM drilling permit issues in Pennsylvania. The West Virginia Geological & Economic Survey (WVGS) also provided an update on its Coalbed Mapping Project, a GIS-based inventory of coal in West Virginia.

Buchanan Mine Resumes Production

Buchanan Mine in Virginia, owned by CONSOL Energy Inc., completed repairs to its skip hoist on Monday, December 12, 2005, and resumed production on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, following testing of the equipment. The skip hoist, the device that lifts coal from underground to the surface, was damaged in an accident on September 16, 2005. The Buchanan Mine produces approximately 400,000 tons per month of low-volatile metallurgical-grade coal that is sold to domestic and international steel makers who use the coal to make coke.

Buchanan Mine is home to a methane utilization project that recovers methane gas from its drainage system and sells it to a natural gas pipeline. In 2003, Buchanan mine and VP #8 mine, also CONSOL owned, together produced 76 million cubic feet (MMcf) of gas per day, of which 74 MMcf per day contributed to emissions reduction.

CONSOL, through its subsidiaries, is the largest producer of high-Btu bituminous coal in the United States. CONSOL Energy has 17 bituminous coal mining complexes in six states. In addition, the company is a majority shareholder in one of the largest U.S. producers of coal bed methane, CNX Gas Corporation. In 2002, the company received a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Protection Award. Additional information about the company can be found at its web site: **www.consolenergy.com**.

Xstrata Group Gets Nova Scotia Rights

As reported by the government of Nova Scotia on December 14, 2005, the Canadian province is a step closer to developing the Donkin coal resource block off of Cape Breton Island.

Xstrata Donkin Coal Development Alliance is the successful applicant in the call for proposals for the Donkin coal resource, the largest remaining coal resource in the Sydney coalfield that can be mined by underground methods. The alliance comprises Xstrata Coal of Sydney, Australia, Atlantic Green Energy Development of Savannah, Ga., and Kaoclay Resources, a Nova Scotia mining company.

The alliance must apply for a "mineral tenure", which is a special license or lease, to the Donkin resource within 270 days. Applications for coal explorations must be approved by the provincial government before exploration or development of the estimated 200 million metric ton thermal and metallurgical coal resource can occur. The alliance is required to obtain all necessary environmental approvals before mining begins.

"Our staff, together with experts in the field, have invested a great deal of time, research and review into ensuring that the pursuit of this opportunity is in the best interest of Nova Scotians," Minister of Natural Resources Richard Hurlburt said.

The selection of the Xstrata Donkin Mine Development Alliance is based on the demonstrated technical and fiscal capability to develop a large and complex undersea coal mine, the quality of the comprehensive proposal, and Xstrata's record of health and safety, environmental management, and community involvement in its coal mines around the world.

Donkin mine was closed almost 20 years ago. A group tried to reopen the mine in 2003, but was unsuccessful due to finances. The provincial government issued the call for proposals for the Donkin coal resource in December 2004. The resulting three responses were reviewed by an independent expert and members of an interdepartmental committee. Work on the project will likely begin early in 2006 with the evaluation of the resource and the development of feasibility studies expected to take about two years to complete.

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awards for occupational safety, to qualifying mining companies. One 2004 award recipient, Consolidated Coal, achieves mine safety at some of its coal mines in part by degasification.

Climate Change Mitigation

In response to the mining industry's impact on climate change, the NMA submitted a letter of intent to the Department of Energy three years ago to participate in the Climate VISION Program, a voluntary initiative launched by President Bush in 2003 whose partners have committed to meet specific targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) intensity. The NMA followed up on the pledge by developing the Mining Industry Climate Action Plan (MICAP), a selection of voluntary initiatives from which its members can choose to participate based on their economic and technical abilities. "The NMA is supportive of Bush's voluntary approach to climate change", stated Mrs. Holmes. MICAP features programs related to energy efficiency, research and development, reclamation and sequestration, voluntary GHG emissions reporting, and coal mine methane (CMM) drainage and utilization where possible. Methane, the main constituent of CMM, is a potent greenhouse gas. CMM drainage and utilization projects benefit the environment, enhance mine safety, and reduce operation down-time. In Mrs. Holmes' view, such activities are not more widespread because coal composition and geological conditions at most mines in the United States do not allow such projects to be technically or economically feasible.

The 2005 Energy Policy Act

In August, 2005, President Bush signed into law the 2005 Energy Policy Act, establishing a comprehensive, long-range energy policy for the United States that provides incentives for both traditional energy production and newer, more efficient energy technologies as well as for energy conservation. The NMA supported the passage of the Act, and "we feel the Act is going in a positive direction", commented Mrs. Holmes. The organization plans to work closely with Congress on behalf of its members to realize the implementation of particularly beneficial provisions, including research and development of clean coal technologies and coal gasification projects. NMA also endorses the FutureGen project, a project to build a zero-emissions coal fired power plant, which should qualify for several funding provisions under the Act. Although the NMA is pleased overall with the contents and direction of the Act, it was disappointed that the Act did not renew the so-called "Section 29" credits, tax credits designated to encourage the production of domestic energy from certain non-conventional sources like CMM.

In representing its constituents, the National Mining Association focuses on a number of issues, including areas of interest to CMOP, such as coal mine safety, environmental responsibility, and economic viability. NMA and CMOP share the belief that voluntary initiatives by industry can provide important and tangible results with respect to climate change mitigation, and thus the future holds a number of win-win, collaborative opportunities that will ultimately benefit the coal mining industry.

For more information on NMA and its constituents, visit their website **www.nma.org**

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tion, as many industry analysts suggest, they illustrate the delicate supply/demand balance that characterizes the current market.

The coalbed methane (CBM) and coal mine methane (CMM) industries were virtually unaffected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which highlights an important aspect of CBM/CMM production (as well as other unconventional resources), the importance of supply diversification. Without CBM/CMM production, which accounts for about 8 percent of the U.S. gas production, the natural gas supply picture would be even worse and consumers would be facing even higher prices. Also, because the CBM/CMM fields are further downstream of the pipelines coming out of the Gulf, it will help to keep these pipelines full and able to supply customers in the Midwest and Northeast U.S.

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or thermal energy, or destroy emissions through flaring. Eligible projects may capture and utilize either drained gas or ventilation air methane. For more information, visit the CDM section of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) website. **http://cdm.unfccc.int**

Upcoming CBM/CMM Events

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, *January 31 - February 1, 2006*
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Contact: Catherine Pierre
Phone: +41 22 917 4140 Fax: +41 22-917-0038
E-mail: Catherine.pierre@unece.org

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Eighth Session of Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development, *February 2-3, 2006*
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Contact: Catherine Pierre
Phone: +41 22 917 4140 Fax: +41 22-917-0038
E-mail: Catherine.pierre@unece.org

Clean Coal Opportunities in Electric Power Generation, *February 7-8, 2006*
The Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, CO
Phone: 303-770-8800 Fax: 303-741-0849
Web site: **www.euci.com**

The 7th Annual Coalbed & Coal Mine Methane Conference, *February 27-28, 2006*
The Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, CO
Contact: Don Friedman
Phone: 212-967-0095 ext. 270
E-mail: dfriedman@srinstitute.com
Web site: **http://www.srinstitute.com/conf_page.cfm?instance_id=25&web_id=785&pid=393**

World Bank Group's Energy Week 2006, *March 6-8, 2006*
Participation is by application and invitation found at
www.worldbank.org/energyweek/

2006 International Coalbed Methane Symposium, *May 22-25, 2006*
The Bryant Conference Center, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Contact: nhodo@ccs.ua.edu
Fax: 205-348-9276
Web site: **http://bama.ua.edu/~coalbed/**

Methane to Markets Coal Technical Subcommittee Meeting (held in Conjunction with the Coalbed Methane Symposium), *May 23, 2006*
The Bryant Conference Center, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Web site: **www.methanetomarkets.org**

11th U.S./North American Mine Ventilation Symposium, *June 5-7, 2006*
University Park, Pennsylvania, USA
Contact: Rachel Altemus, Penn State University
Phone: +1 814-865-3439
E-mail: Rla7@psu.edu
Web site: **www.egee.psu.edu/USMVS2006/**

World Energy Council Regional Energy Forum – FOREN 2006, *June 11-15, 2006*
Neptun, Romania
Phone: (+4021) 346.43.30; (+4021) 346.47.31
Fax: (+4021) 346.45.46
E-mail: foren2006@cnr-cme.ro
Web site: **www.cnr-cme.ro/foren2006**

8th International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies, *June 19-23, 2006*
Trondheim, Norway
Web site: **www.ghgt-8.no**

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www.methanetomarkets.org

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