

A publication of the coalbed methane outreach Frogram (omor

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Methane to Markets Partnership Launches in Washington D.C.

Background. On November 15 to 17, 2004, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC, representatives from 14 partner countries, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States, joined representatives from the private sector, development banks, and other non-governmental organizations in the official launch of a new international

initiative, the Methane to Markets Partnership.

The Partnership promotes costeffective, near-term methane recovery and use as a clean energy source from three major sources: landfills, underground coal mines, and natural gas and oil systems.

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US EPA and Raven Ridge Resources to hold Western CMM Workshop April 19 - 21, 2005 Grand Junction, Colorado

Raven Ridge Resources and US EPA will hold a CMM workshop focused on the Western United States on April 19 - 21, 2005, in Grand Junction, Colorado. The workshop will include two days of seminars and discussions and a field trip to the surface facilities of West Elk Mine in Somerset, Colorado, on the third day. Topics to be covered include the following:

 CMM production issues such as drilling, predrainage, equipment and facilities, and integration of methane with mining activities;

- End uses of CMM and ventilation air methane, from power generation to gas processing for gas sales;
- CMM project development, from resource determination to financing to practical operational issues
- Regulatory barriers such as gas ownership issues and environmental permitting and siting
- Market barriers and opportunities, including distributed generation, working with utilities, and carbon finance mechanisms.

Registration fees are \$200 (before April 11) for the conference only, and \$50 to participate in the field trip (on a space-available basis). Special conference rates are available at two nearby hotels in Grand Junction.

Registration information (including secure on-line registration), a preliminary conference agenda, and other details are available online at www.ravenridge.com, or by contacting Mike Cote at (970) 245-4088 or mcote@ravenridge.com.



China's Largest CMM Project Moves Forward

The largest CMM project underway in China, at the Sihe Mine in Shanxi Province, is projected to generate 120 MW of power utilizing both CBM and CMM as feedstock. Owned and operated by the Jincheng Anthracite Coal Mining Group (JMC), the Sihe Mine was selected as the demonstration site by the Chinese Government following a detailed feasibility study funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The Sihe Mine began operations in early 2002. Currently, the mine produces about 435,000 cubic meters (m3) of CMM per day. Of the mine's methane emissions, up to 36 million cubic meters per year has been captured and used in a combined heat and power (CHP) plant. Some 15 MW of capacity has been installed through various demonstration projects ongoing since 1997. Coal production is anticipated to increase to 8 million tons by year 2008, which will increase CMM emissions to more than 500,000 m3/day.

The project, slated to be completed in 2008, will use reciprocating (internal combustion) gas engines at the Sihe mine to generate power. In addition, the project will capture coal mine methane from other mines for distribution to residential, commercial, and industrial consumers in the Jincheng area. By 2008, the project goals are to

provide at least 166 million cubic meters of coal mine methane per year to about 90,000 households and various industries and commercial establishments near the Sihe mine. In all, about 410,000 people in Jincheng will directly benefit from the cleaner energy from CMM that will help alleviate indoor and outdoor pollution. According to the ADB, the project will create about 1200 full-time jobs during construction and about 845 during operation.

JMC already has experience with CMM-fired power generation. JMC ran a 240 kW test-scale power generation project in 1995, and then in November 1997, the JMC installed four 400 kW internal combustion engines at the Sihe Mine utilizing 2 million cubic meters per year of CMM. In 2000, JMC increased the power generating capacity by 4 MW through the installation of two 2-MW cogeneration stations. In addition, JMC has used captured methane for boiler fuel and cooking at the Sihe Mine.

For more information on the Sihe project, visit www.adb.org/documents/news/2004/nr2004185. asp.

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CMM Projects: Using Multiple Financing Sources

One of the greatest challenges for CMM project developers is financing the capital-intensive projects. Often, CMM developers seek only a single source for project capital, but successful project development in most industries requires a portfolio of debt and equity financing. Ideally, developers should also utilize non-financial sources of expertise such as coalbed methane clearinghouses or similar organizations where they exist. These organizations serve as an information resource and focal point of others interested in CMM projects and mining operations. They also serve project developers seeking guidance on technical, policy, legal and financial issues related to CMM.

The planned CMM power project at Sihe Coal Mine in China is an excellent example of capitalizing on multiple sources of financing opportunities. The total cost of the project is estimated to be US \$237 million.

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London Conference Assesses the Commercialization of Global CBM/CMM Projects

In November 2004, CWC Associates Ltd. held a conference in London entitled "The Successful Commercialization of Global Coalbed and Coalmine Methane Projects." An international panel of 21 speakers presented on a range of topics focused on financing and investment options for CBM/CMM projects. Uniquely, the CWC conference was the first conference devoted solely to the issue of financing coal mine methane projects. In the past, industry-oriented conferences have tended to cover technical, legal, regulatory, and market issues but have rarely covered financial matters other than carbon finance. To date, this approach has been adequate as many projects have been smaller and self-financed. However, the CMM industry is growing, and the size of projects is also increasing, as evidenced by recently-announced 120-MW project in China and a 131-MW project in Ukraine. As a result, many project developers are seeking project capital from third-party sources. While carbon finance

could make marginal projects feasible or even highly profitable, it will likely also be necessary to secure funds through institutional financial markets.

The panel of speakers provided thorough and thought-provoking presentations on the impact of technology on full cycle CBM/CMM financial viability, multilateral and private sector debt and equity financing, case studies on preparing and selling a project concept, and the current state of carbon finance, including the perspectives of both buyers and sellers. Speakers included experts from a wide range of organizations, including financial experts from the multilateral and bilateral investment organizations and the private sector, CMM project developers, private industry, government representatives, technical experts and greenhouse gas brokerage houses/consultancies.

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CMM Projects: Using Multiple Financing Sources

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The Asian Development Bank is providing a US \$117.4 million loan to be executed by the Shanxi Provincial Government. In addition, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation is providing a loan of US \$20 million, and the Industrial Bank of China is loaning US \$37.86 million. In addition, the Jincheng municipal government and two mining industrial groups are expected to provide equity capital totaling \$61.24 million. Additional technical assistance (US \$500,000) from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (will provide detailed design and procurement support



in the development and implementation of the power plant. Throughout the process, the Jincheng Coal Mining Group has been working closely with the China Coalbed Methane Clearinghouse (http://www.coalinfo.net.cn/coalbed/coalbed.htm) including the preparation and publication of a CMM investment guide for the mining authority.



London Conference (Cont'd from page 3)

A number of key points were raised during the program:

- Currently, there is a more realistic expectation among members of the CBM/CMM community for CBM and CMM projects, as compared to several years ago (e.g., resource or gas-in-place does not equate to 100% recoverable reserves). This new perspective is providing a more solid foundation for project development and expansion.
- Many CMM projects are marginal; therefore, a thorough understanding of financial vehicles will open additional avenues for funding and result in a number of these marginal projects moving forward.
- There is interest in CMM projects for the environmental and sustainable development aspects of the projects. However, the financial community will not take a position in the industry solely for the social benefits. The projects must be economically viable and the supporting documentation must be credible and show that the projects are bankable.
- Risk can be mitigated through a portfolio of projects, especially in specific geographic locations. Economies of scale result from integration of projects and staff, resulting in more cost-effective management and operations and even lower capital costs.
- Large institutional investors and lenders have minimum thresholds that are often beyond the size of small CMM projects. For example, the International Finance Corporation is generally interested in projects that are at least US \$25 million and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has a \$20 million threshold. It was recommended that developers pull together a portfolio of projects or include the CMM project as one aspect of a larger integrated project.

- Bundling coal sales with coal mine methane emission offsets is very attractive for many buyers because they can address both needs through one agreement.
- Although there have been very few CMM projects that are selling carbon credits, there is growing interest and additional projects are expected to enter the market in the next year or two.
- The UN Economic Commission for Europe has undertaken a project focusing on building the capacity of the mining community and government officials to better understand portfolio development and financial engineering to realize additional CMM utilization (see the Fall 2004 CBM Extra and the UNECE article in this edition or visit http://www.unece.org/ie/se/coal/cmm.html).





4th International Symposium on Coalbed Methane (CBM)/ Coal Mine Methane (CMM) in China

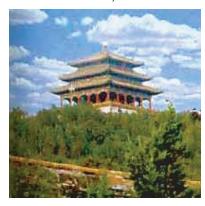
Beijing, China. The 4th International Symposium on Coalbed Methane and Coal Mine Methane, co-sponsored by the China Coal Information Institute (CCII) and US EPA, was held in Beijing in December 2004. The symposium addressed coalbed methane (CBM) and coal mine methane (CMM) opportunities in China. Mr. Huang Shengchu, President of the CCII, chaired the symposium and gave opening remarks. Other speakers included Chinese government officials, representatives from the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service and US EPA, and representatives from mining, technology, and consulting industries from China, the US. Europe, and Asia, A number of the key topics discussed included the following:

- Mine experiences with drilling and CMM recovery and utilization
 - CBM project opportunities in China
- A suite of technologies, both proven and developing, for accessing and utilizing CBM and CMM
- Research and development and modeling efforts
- Clean Development Mechanism
 (CDM) opportunities in China

The world's largest coal producer, China produced 1.9 billion tons of coal in 2004, with coal

reserves estimated to be 50 billion tons. China's methane reserves are largely untapped and are estimated to be 592.8 billion cubic meters.

Although China's CMM emissions account for 40 percent of the world's CMM emissions, less than 5 percent of this CMM is utilized. (Globally, CMM emissions account for 8 percent of all anthropogenic methane emissions).



China continues to suffer from numerous fatal coal mine accidents. Mr. Huang and other Chinese government officials expressed their belief that an investment in coal mine safety will contribute to an increase in China's CMM production, and that, in turn, coal mine methane drainage and utilization will help prevent mining accidents.

Many participants recognized the compelling reasons to develop CMM and CBM projects in China: namely, their energy, environmental, and safety benefits. Over the course of the conference, discussions also centered on several key barriers to CBM/CMM development in China, including the following:

- The lack of available, relevant data, especially for CBM development
- The lack of availability, access to, or familiarity with the appropriate technology for CBM/CMM development in China, especially technology that can accommodate highly variable or low-quality CMM and ventilation air methane.
- The lack of transparency of the Chinese regulatory framework governing ownership and investment rights.
- The lack of regulatory policies to encourage CMM (e.g., tax subsidies)
- Perhaps most importantly, financial hurdles, including the lack of foreign investment in Chinese CMM projects. Discussions centered on ways to encourage investment in Chinese CMM projects when they present high risk but relatively low rates of return. Many CMM projects do not appear to be profitable without carbon emission reduction credits. Investments, grants, and financial support from organizations such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), or institutions such as the newly emerging Methane to Markets Partnership may help to reduce these barriers.



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane

Geneva, Switzerland. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane was created by the UNECE as a forum to bring together a wide array of interested persons with a stake in coal mine methane (CMM) development. The mission of this group of experts is to address the technical, institutional. and financial barriers that are inhibiting the implementation of recovery and use of CMM. Although the primary focus is within the UNECE region, namely Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, the project is unique within the United Nations and has drawn interest from countries outside the ECE region. The first meeting, held on December 6, 2004, featured a range of presentations and discussions. Country-specific profiles, technical overviews, and a panel discussion on project finance provided important background and set the stage for developing a program of work over the next year. The meeting attracted 80 delegates from 18 countries, and the UNECE provided translation of the proceedings in Russian, French, and English.

To subscribe to CBM Extra, provide contact information to:

Clark Talkington at talkington.clark@epa.gov or Pamela Franklin at franklin.pamela@epa.gov In the meeting, the Ad Hoc Group, led by the Secretariat and the Chairman, Clark Talkington of US EPA, set a program of work for the next year. In setting the program, the Group is attempting to direct its efforts toward achieving realistic objectives and achievable outcomes. The following activities will be undertaken in 2005, but the list may be amended in the future if interest, resources, and time allow.

- To the extent possible, the Ad Hoc Group will coordinate activities with the international Methane to Markets
 Partnership (M2M) when such coordination benefits both the UNECE Ad Hoc Group of Experts and the Partnership.
- Ownership was raised as one of the most significant barriers to further development of coal mine methane in any country.

 Each country represented in the Ad Hoc Group will respond to a brief ownership questionnaire, and these responses will be tabulated and presented to the Group to facilitate discussion regarding a plan of action.
- The Ad Hoc Group created a technical task force on methane drainage issues to begin setting a course of work that targets key technical barriers and possible

- responses to overcome those barriers.
- The Ad Hoc Group will strive to hold at least one workshop in 2005, and possibly more if resources are available.

The UNECE Secretariat will begin work under a new initiative, the "Project on Development of Coal Mine Methane Projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States," co-funded by the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency** and the United Nations Foundation. The program is directed at encouraging investment in coal mine methane utilization projects. For more information on the UNECE project, visit http://www.unece.org/ie/se/coal/cm m.html.





Methane to Markets Partnership Launches in Washington DC

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By utilizing methane that would otherwise be wasted, this initiative will produce important benefits, such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, enhanced economic growth, energy security, coal mine safety, and improved local air quality. By 2015, the Partnership has the potential to deliver annual methane emissions reductions of up to 50 million metric tons of carbon equivalent, or recovery of 14.2 billion cubic meters of natural gas. The United States has pledged up to \$53 million over the next five years to reach the goals of this partnership.

The Ministerial Meeting. The Ministerial Meeting consisted of three days of meetings. The first day focused on public-private sector issues relating to methane recovery and use opportunities and issues. The opening plenary session included opening

remarks by Jim Connaughton, Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Steve Johnson, Deputy Administrator for the US EPA, and Andrew Natsios, Administrator for the US Agency for International Development (AID). The opening session also included presentations about science, market, and policy perspectives. Subsequently, each of the three sectors (coal mine methane, landfill methane, and oil and gas) broke out into technical discussions of issues affecting recovery and utilization.

The second day of the meeting included a keynote address by EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt and brief summaries of the key outcomes from the public-private dialogue. Ministers from the Partner countries made statements and signed the Methane to Markets Terms of Reference. The Terms of

Reference outline the framework for the Partnership and are available online at http://www.methanetomarkets.org/.

Structure of the Partnership. The Partnership creates a voluntary, nonbinding framework for international cooperation to advance the recovery and use of methane as a valuable clean energy source. The Partnership focuses on development of strategies and markets for the recovery and use of methane through technology development, demonstration, deployment and diffusion, implementation of effective policy frameworks, identification of ways and means to support investment, and removal of barriers to collective project development and implementation.

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Heads of Delegations: Dr. Atilio Savino (Argentina), Stephen Payne (Australia), Jose Domingos Gonzales Miguez (Brazil), Gao Feng (China), Martha Patricia Castillo Delgado (Colombia), Anil Kumar Kutty (India), Corrado Chini (Italy), Seizo Matsumoto (Japan), Dr. Fernando Tudela (Mexico), Umunna Orjaiko (Nigeria), Sergey Mazurenko (Russia), Mykhailo Shevtsov (Ukraine), Ben Bradshaw (United Kingdom), Michael O. Leavitt (United States).



Methane to Markets Partnership Launches in Washington DC

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Former US EPA Administrator Michael Leavitt signing the Terms of Reference for the Methane to Markets Partnership as Ministers from other Founding Partner countries look on.

Organizationally, the Partnership consists of a Steering Committee, an Administration Support Group, and three Subcommittees (Coal Mines, Landfills, and Oil and Gas Systems). Additional Subcommittees in other focal areas (e.g., agriculture and livestock) may be established by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will govern the overall framework, policies, and procedures of the Partnership; annually review the initiative's progress; and provide guidance to the Administrative Support Group and the Subcommittees. The Subcommittees will be responsible for guidance and assessment of sectorspecific activities and engaging representatives of the private sector, development banks, researchers, and other relevant governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Each Subcommittee will develop a collaborative action plan, provide guidance on project identification, identify and address key barriers and issues for project development, address

market assessment and reform issues, and facilitate investment and financing opportunities.

Coal Subcommittee
Meets. The third and final
day was devoted to a
working meeting of the
Steering Committee and
each of the Subcommittees.
The minutes of this meeting
are available online at

http://www.methanetomarkets.org/proce edings.htm. The Subcommittee meetings at the Ministerial were open to all attendees and the Subcommittee Chairs encouraged and sought participation from all attendees. The Coal Subcommittee is co-chaired by India and the United States, with China as the Vice Chair. The first priority for the Coal Subcommittee is to develop an Action Plan to be presented to the Steering Committee at its meeting in Fall 2005. Prior to formulating the Plan, each partner country will provide a

profile of its coal mine
methane sector. These
profiles will serve as a
foundation for the Action Plan
by identifying ongoing and
planned activities in each
country and specific needs or
areas of assistance. In the
meeting, delegates to the
Coal Subcommittee and
others described their top
issue priorities as gas

ownership, access to technology, and financing. Recognizing that it will probably take one year to complete the Action Plan, the Coal Subcommittee outlined several tasks to undertake in the intervening period. Possible tasks for the first year include the following:

- defining and clarifying gas ownership
- identifying and evaluating possible incentives to spur coal mine methane recovery and use
- identifying or developing uniform technical standards
- disseminating lessons learned from successful experimental projects, and
- hosting a technology transfer or policy symposium.

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Dr. Oleg Tailakov, Director of International Coal and Research Center - Uglemetan, in Kemerovo, Russia, addressing the Ministerial Meeting, summarizing the Coal Sector discussions.



Methane to Markets Partnership Launches in Washington DC

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Private Sector Involvement. An overarching theme throughout the Ministerial meeting was the importance of public-private partnerships in furthering development of methane abatement projects and the necessity of creating a framework to support the partnerships. The implementing mechanism for this public-private dialogue and cooperation is the Methane to Markets Project Network. The Project Network is comprised of representatives from local governments, the private sector, the research community, development banks and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations that are committed to identifying and implementing costeffective methane emission reduction opportunities that bring this clean energy source to market. Participation is open

to all who are interested, upon signing the Agreement. A copy of the Agreement is included in this edition of the Extra and can be found on the



internet at http://www.epa.gov/ methanetomarkets/docs/ppnma.pdf. A website for the Coal Subcommittee will be developed to facilitate communication among the Project Network and Subcommittee members. Next Steps. The Subcommittees were also directed to hold an interim Subcommittee meeting before the next full Steering Committee meeting in Fall 2005. The interim meeting of the Coal Subcommittee will be hosted by the UN Economic Commission for Europe at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva on 27-28 April 2005. The Subcommittee meeting will be open only to official delegations from member countries and Project Network members.

For more information, visit the Methane to Markets webpage at www.methanetomarkets.org or www.epa.gov/methanetomarkets/ or by contacting Erin Birgfeld at birgfeld.erin@epa.gov.

11th North American Mine Ventilation Conference Announces Call for Papers with Special Interest in Coal Mine Methane

The Penn State University and the Underground Ventilation Committee of SME have announced that they are seeking papers for the 11th symposium to be held at The Pennsylvania State University on June 5-7, 2006.

The symposium organizers are especially interested in papers on mine methane drainage and utilization including use of mine ventilation air methane.

Potential authors should e-mail a one- or

two-page abstract (preferably in Microsoft WORD) to Rachel Altemus at rla7@psu.edu before June 1, 2005. For further information, please visit the symposium website at:

http://www.egee.psu.edu/USMVS2006.





Upcoming Events

3rd Annual National Coal Seam Methane - Coal Mine Methane Summit 2005

21 -23 March 2005

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Contact: Jamie Turmanis, IIR Pty Ltd.

Jturmanis@iir.com.au
Tel: +61-2-9923-5038
Fax: +61-2-9959-4684
www.iir.com.au/resources

SRI's 6th Annual CBM/CMM Conference

30-31 March 2005 Denver, Colorado USA http://www.srinstitute.com/

China Coalbed Methane Clearinghouse CMM Workshop

6-7 April 2005 Chengdu, China Contact cbmc@public.bta.net.cn

North American Coalbed Methane Forum - Spring 2005 Meeting

April 12-13, 2005

Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh / Southpointe 1000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 (724) 743-5000

Contact: Dr. Kashy Aminian kaminian@wvu.edu

Western US Coal Mine Methane Workshop

19 - 21 April 2005

Grand Junction, Colorado, USA

Contact: Mike Cote, Raven Ridge Resources

Mcote@ravenridge.com
Tel: +1 970-245-4088
Fax: +1 970-245-2514
www.ravenridge.com

Methane to Markets Coal Mine Methane Subcommittee

Members and official Member Country Delegations)

27-28 April 2005 Geneva, Switzerland

Contact: Clark Talkington or Pamela Franklin, US EPA

talkington.clark@epa.gov or franklin.pamela@epa.gov

Tel: +1.202.343.9484/+1.202.343.9476

Fax: +1.202.343.2202

2004 International Coalbed Methane Symposium

Bryant Conference Center, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama USA

May 3-7, 2004

Pre-Symposium Short Courses, May 3 & 4, 2004

Symposium General Session, May 5 & 6, 2004 Post-Symposium Field Trips, May 7, 2004 http://bama.ua.edu/~coalbed/cm 6 04.html

2nd International Conference on Clean Coal Technologies for Our Future: CCT 2005

10 - 12 May 2005 Castiadas, Italy Contact: Conference Secretariat

Info@cct2005.it Tel: +39 070-499242 Fax: +39 070 485402

www.cct2005.it

Fourth International Symposium on Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases (NCGG-4)

Science, Control, Policy and Implementation July 4-6, 2005 Utrecht, The Netherlands http://www.milieukundigen.nl/pages/ncgg4/



Upcoming Events

Eighth International Mine Ventilation Congress

July 6-8, 2005, Brisbane, Australia The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy

http://www.ausimm.com/mineventilation/home.asp

Grubengas Tage 2005: German Coal Mine Methane Days

15 - 16 September 2005

Grubengas Tage 2005: German Coal Mine

Methane Days Bochum, Germany

Visit http://www.dmt-gmbh.net/ or contact: Dr.

Heribert Meiners, Deutsche Montan

Technologie GmbH at Heribert.meiners@dmt.de

31st Biennial International Conference of Safety in Mines Research Institutes

2 - 5 October 2005

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Contact: Stewart Bell

Stewart.bell@nrme.qld.gov.au

Tel: +61 7-3810-6302 Fax: +61 7-3810-6363

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane Meeting

21 November 2005 Geneva, Switzerland

Contact: Catherine Pierre Catherine.pierre@unece.org

Tel: +41 22 917 4140 Fax: +41 22-917-0038

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal In Sustainable Development

22 -23 November 2005

Geneva, Switzerland

Contact: Catherine Pierre

Catherine.pierre@unece.org

Tel: +41 22 917 4140 Fax: +41 22-917-0038

11th US / North American Mine Ventilation Symposium

5 - 7 June 2006

University Park, Pennsylvania, USA Contact: Rachel Altemus, Penn State

University Rla7@psu.edu

Tel: +1 814-865-3439

www.egee.psu.edu/USMVS2006/

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Coalbed Methane Outreach Program, 6202J 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20460 USA

Please notify us if your contact information (address, e-mail, or phone/fax number) changes.