

UNECE Group of Experts Coal Mine Methane Task Force on Safe Operations and Closure of Coal Mines

Third Meeting

7 December 2023

15:30 - 17:00 (Geneva time)

SUMMARY

Participants:

Task Force Chair:

- Alicja Krzemien

Task Force Members:

1. Bartłomiej Bezak
2. Maciej Bialek
3. David Creedy
4. Alexandre D'Angelo
5. Carles Debart
6. Angel Esparza
7. Sherry Heschuk
8. Stefan Moellerherm
9. Raymond Pilcher
10. Grzegorz Plonka
11. Pedro Riesgo Fernández
12. Andriy Shulga
13. Radoslav Vukas

Secretariat:

- Michal Drabik

Agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting and welcome by the Chair of the Group
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Presentation of case studies on mine closure in Poland and Spain
4. What's new (opportunity for TF members to bring to the TF's attention relevant recent or upcoming publications, meetings, projects, policies, etc.)
5. AOB
6. Next meeting
7. Closing the meeting

Item 1. Opening of the meeting and welcome by the Chair of the Group

1. The Chair of the Task Force, Ms. Alicja Krzemien, opened the session.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

2. The draft agenda was adopted without any changes.

Item 3. Presentation of case studies on mine closure in Poland and Spain

3. Mr. Bezak presented a case study on mine closure in Poland focusing on a PGG's Boleslaw Smialy mine. The document is available on the [webpage dedicated to the third meeting of the TF](#), as well as in the [shared folder of the Task Force](#).

- a) It was stated that 40 billion Euro is needed to transform PGG mines to meet the requirements of the EU's "Fit for 55" and "Green deal."

- b) As SRK, a special-purpose entity currently responsible for mine closure in Poland, is to cease its operations in 2027, PGG itself will be the operator of all mines closed after that date. In other words, it will bear all the risks and responsibilities associated with the closed mines.
4. Mr. Bezak agreed to deliver a case study on closure of another PGG's mine at one of the upcoming meetings of the TF. It was requested that the next study focuses on a gassy mine.
5. Mr. Riesgo Fernández presented case studies on mine closure in Spain focusing on Mosquitera and Pumarabule mines. The document is available on the [webpage dedicated to the third meeting of the TF](#), as well as in the [shared folder of the Task Force](#).
- a) It was stated that in Spain, water from flooded mines is considered clean after 6 years of pumping.
6. Following the presentations, it was suggested to add to the "Environmental risk" in the template a category of "solid material".
7. It was proposed that experts in special issues relevant to mine closure, such as e.g., water, could be invited to the TF meetings to present on those matters. The Chair of the TF offered to invite such experts, as the idea was received warmly by TF members.
8. It was tentatively agreed that at the next session case studies from Albania (UNECE local consultant) and Germany (Mr. Stefan Moellerherm) will be presented.

Item 4. What's new?

9. No discussion took place under this agenda item.

Item 5. Any other business

10. The secretariat invited TF members to participate in the [Global Methane Forum 2024](#) that will be held on 18-21 March 2024 in Geneva. The registration for the event is already open and can be done [online](#).

Item 6. Next meeting

11. The next meeting of the TF will take place in late January/early February. The secretariat will distribute a doodle poll to identify the most convenient date and time.

Item 7. Closing the meeting

12. The Chair and the secretariat thanked participants for their time and involvement in the call, and closed the meeting.
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