

Message

From: Jones, Enesta [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=65B8E6C6E5CA4A7A9AE85D98A4C8EEDB-EJONES02]
Sent: 5/30/2018 2:02:07 PM
To: mark.olalde; **Ex. 6**
CC: Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
Subject: media request

Mark,

On background:

Is the EPA continuing research and/or data collection regarding coalbed methane? If so, which aspects of this topic are being researched?

Coalbed methane (CBM) refers to methane that is found in coal seams. It is formed during the process of coalification, the transformation of plant material into coal. CBM is also known as virgin coal seam methane or coal seam gas. It is widely considered an "unconventional" source of natural gas. Coal mine methane (CMM) is released from the coal and surrounding rock strata due to mining activities. In underground mines, it can create an explosive hazard to coal miners, so it is removed through ventilation systems. In abandoned mines and surface mines, methane might also escape to the atmosphere through natural fissures or other diffuse sources. Like CBM, CMM is a subset of the methane found in coal seams, but it refers specifically to the methane found within mining areas (e.g., within a mining plan), while CBM refers to methane in coal seams that will never be mined. Because CMM would be released through mining activities, recovering and using CMM is considered emissions avoidance. EPA's Coalbed Methane Outreach Program (CMOP) works cooperatively with the mining industry and other stakeholders to reduce CMM emissions.

Is the "coalbed methane outreach program" still active, and what are its current efforts?

Yes. The Coalbed Methane Outreach Program (CMOP) works with the coal mining industry to support project development, overcome institutional, technical, regulatory, and financial barriers to implementation, and communicate the benefits of CMM recovery. Activities include:

- o Identifying, evaluating, and promoting methane reduction options, including technological innovations and markets mechanisms to encourage project implementation.
- o Conducting and/or participating in workshops to educate the mining industry and the broader community on the environmental, mine safety, and economic benefits of methane recovery.
- o Preparing and disseminating reports and other materials that address topics ranging from technical and economic analyses to overviews of legal issues.
- o Interfacing with all facets of the mining industry to advance project development.

o Providing global access to information regarding latest developments through our [website](#) -- you can find a number of recently technical publications online and we are in the process of updating numerous documents over the coming months.

What international efforts are ongoing to engage with foreign governments, agencies, etc. on the topic of coalbed methane?

CMOP continues to develop partnerships and engage in international outreach to promote CMM recovery and reduce CMM emissions globally in support of **the Global Methane Initiative (GMI)**. CMOP supports CMM information clearinghouses and other collaborative efforts in several countries, including [China](#), [Colombia](#), [India](#), [Kazakhstan](#), [Mongolia](#), [Poland](#), and [Turkey](#). Please visit this [site](#) for more information on efforts to reduce CMM emissions globally.

The EPA has released several reports into the areas where coalbed methane has the highest potential for capture. Are there ongoing efforts in the agency to promote capture at these or other coal operations?

EPA's Coalbed Methane Outreach Program updated its "[Identifying Opportunities for Methane Recovery at U.S. Coal Mines: Profiles of Selected Gassy Underground Coal Mines 2007-2015](#)" document in January 2018 and will soon be updating the document with 2016 data from the U.S. Inventory. CMOP continues to promote opportunities to capture and utilize methane from these gassy underground mines.

Are there ongoing partnerships with industry members or others to curtail coalbed methane emissions?

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) is an international public-private initiative that advances cost effective, near-term methane abatement and recovery projects and the use of methane as a clean energy source. Activities of the GMI are focused on reducing informational, institutional, and market barriers to project development by making available tools and resources, providing training and capacity building, conducting technology demonstrations, and offering direct project support. There are many active industry members within this partnership. Referred to as Project Network members, these private and non-profit sector stakeholders add tremendous value to the GMI, working with Partner countries to advance the capture and use of CMM worldwide. We welcome additional members to the Project Network and have several upcoming opportunities for them to get involved. Please visit the GMI Events page online [here](#) for a list of upcoming activities.

From: Mark Olalde

Ex. 6

Date: May 25, 2018 at 10:39:38 AM EDT

To: jones.enesta@epa.gov

Subject: media request

Dear Ms. Jones,

I hope this finds you well. I am a freelance journalist writing a piece about coalbed methane for *Climate Home News*. I left a voicemail, as well, but please find several questions listed below.

If the EPA would like to provide answers for this story, I would need those by noon on Wednesday to guarantee they meet my deadline. Because this is not a breaking news story, there is a chance that the story gets held a few days for edits. Because of that, please feel free to pass along any responses that come in after noon on Wednesday, and I will still try my best to get them in the story if it is not published yet.

--Is the EPA continuing research and/or data collection regarding coalbed methane? If so, which aspects of this topic are being researched?

--Is the "coalbed methane outreach program" still active, and what are its current efforts?

--What international efforts are ongoing to engage with foreign governments, agencies, etc. on the topic of coalbed methane?

--The EPA has released several reports into the areas where coalbed methane has the highest potential for capture. Are there ongoing efforts in the agency to promote capture at these or other coal operations?

--Are there ongoing partnerships with industry members or others to curtail coalbed methane emissions?

Thanks very much for your assistance, and please do not hesitate to reach out at this email or at the mobile number in my signature regarding this story.

Best,

Mark Olalde

Freelance journalist

Ex. 6

www.MarkOlalde.com