# Overview of North American GHG Markets Opportunities for CMM

9th Session of the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane Geneva, Switzerland

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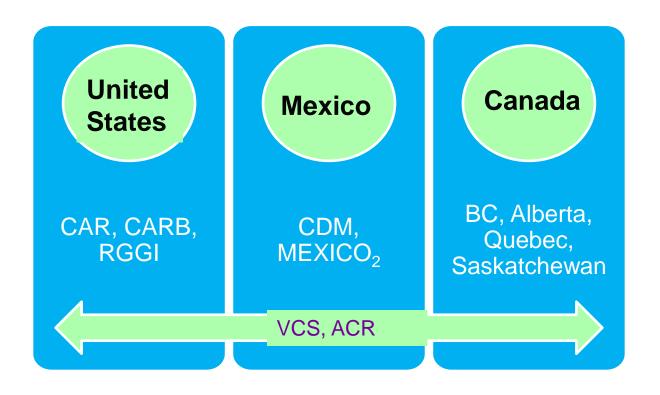






### Current GHG Markets – North America

Up to 11 Different GHG Programs to Consider!







## **Current GHG Markets – United States**

#### **Voluntary Programs for CMM Projects**

- American Carbon Registry (ACR)
  - Will accept projects located in the U.S. as well as internationally
- Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)
  - Uses its own methodologies and accepts CDM and CAR methodologies
  - VMR0001 Pre-drainage from Open Cast Mines
    - 2 completed U.S. projects
  - VMR0002 Methane Capture from Abandoned Coal Mines
    - 3 current U.S. projects
- Climate Action Reserve (CAR)
  - Uses its own Coal Mine Methane Project Protocol
    - U.S. underground coal mines only
    - 2 VAM projects (1 completed, 1 registered)
    - 3 methane drainage projects (2 registered, 1 listed)





## **Current GHG Markets – United States**

#### **Compliance (Mandatory) Programs**

- California Air Resources Board (ARB) Program
  - Approved the Mine Methane Capture (MMC) Project Protocol in April 2014 which includes:
    - Underground Coal Mines (CAR Protocol)
    - Surface or Open Cast Coal Mines (revised VCS Protocol)
    - Abandoned Underground Coal Mines (revised VCS Protocol)
  - Accepting offset projects located in the U.S. only
  - Officially linked with Quebec January 1, 2014
  - Use ACR, CAR, and VCS (new in 2014) as offset project registries
  - CMM projects registered in CAR or VCS by end of <u>2014</u> may be considered for "early action" in ARB program
  - Starting July 1, 2014, new CMM projects can be registered directly in ARB offset program
  - First reporting period through 2020





## **Current GHG Markets – United States**

#### **Compliance (Mandatory) Programs**

- California Air Resources Board (ARB) Program
  - Two noteworthy projects transitioning from CAR
    - McElroy VAM Project (160,000 scfm)
    - Elk Creek 3 MW Power Project
  - Offset Protocol language considered legislation
    - Protocol updates are lengthy process
    - Variances from protocol not allowed
    - "Nonproducing Mines" currently not included
  - Offset credit liability with buyer of credits
    - Standard liability 8 years (CCO8)
    - Can be reduced to 3 years (CCO3)
      - Double verification
      - Increased verifier rotation





#### **Current GHG Markets - Canada**

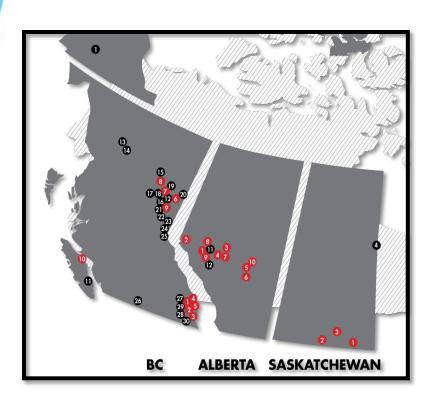
#### **Compliance (Mandatory) Programs**

- Saskatchewan
  - Emerging GHG offset market in 2014
  - Possible linking with Alberta and British Columbia programs
  - Current offset types include agriculture, O&G, and renewable energy
- British Columbia
  - August 2014 Pacific Carbon Trust was folded into Ministry of Environment's Climate Action Secretariat, Climate Investment Branch
  - Uses new methodologies and accepts CDM, VCS, and CAR methodologies
  - October 2014 Set carbon intensity for LNG facilities (could double demand for offsets)
- Alberta
  - Specified Gas Emitters Regulation (SGER)
    - Based on industry-specific carbon intensities
    - Can meet targets through three ways:
      - Improve carbon intensity performance, purchase offset credits (no limit), pay into Technology Fund
- Quebec
  - Linked with California





#### **Current GHG Markets - Canada**



Best GHG markets, but little CMM project opportunity

#### British Columbia

1 underground and9 surface coal mines

#### Alberta

1 underground and8 surface coal mines

#### Saskatchewan

1 surface mine

#### Quebec

- No coal mines
- Decided not to add CMM in 2014





#### **Current GHG Markets - Mexico**

- General Climate Change Law
  - Passed by Mexico's Congress in April 2012
    - Establishment of high-level climate commissions → create domestic carbon market
    - Possibility of domestic emissions trading system (ETS) development
  - Platform in place MEXICO<sub>2</sub> <a href="http://www.mexico2.com.mx/">http://www.mexico2.com.mx/</a>
  - Carbon tax supposed to be effective 2014
    - Pending secondary legislation (was scheduled for June)
    - Price set at only \$3/tCO<sub>2</sub>e
    - Preference for CERs?
  - Efforts to link with California's C&T program this year
    - May 2014 IETA Business Partnership Meeting,
    - July 2014 California Governor's Meeting,
    - November 2014 Developing Mexico CAR ODS Protocol
- Coal Mine Methane Projects
  - Currently 5 projects operating or under development at Mimosa Coal Mines in state of Coahuila
    - 3 power generation (1 abandoned), 1 flaring, and 1 boiler fuel





## **Summary of North American GHG Markets**

- Compliance carbon credit prices vary widely
  - \$3.00 \$25.00/tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Continued efforts to link GHG programs
- U.S. CMM opportunities
  - Maybe 20+ VAM sites with higher carbon price
  - 8-10 mines still vent some or all drainage gas
  - Abandoned underground mines
    - Northern Appalachian coal basin, Illinois coal basin, Western basins
  - Surface coal mines in Powder River Basin
- Little CMM opportunity in Canada
- Ownership barriers with CMM opportunity in Mexico
  - Low carbon price





### Thank you for your attention!

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